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GEORGE WASHINGTON
BICENTENNIAL EDITION

THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

TERMS AND CONDITIONS declared by the PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES, this ſeventeenth day of October, ſeventeen hundred and ninety-one, for regulating the Materials and Manner of the Buildings and Improvements on the LOTS in the CITY of WASHINGTON.

1ſt. THAT the outer and party-walls of all houſes within the ſaid City ſhall be built of brick or ſtone.

2d. That all buildings on the ſtreets ſhall be parallel thereto, and may be advanced to the line e ſtreet, or withdrawn therefrom, at the plea- of the improver: But where any ſuch build- about to be erected, neither the foundation or party-wall ſhall be begun without firſt applying to the perſom or perſons appointed by the Commiſſioners to ſuperintend the buildings within the city, who will aſcertain the lines of the walls to correſpond with theſe regulations.

3d. The wall of no houſe to be higher than forty feet to the roof in any part of the city; nor ſhall any be lower than thirty-five feet on any of the avenues.

4th. That the perſon or perſons appointed by the Commiſſioners to ſuperintend the buildings may enter on the land of any perſon to ſet out the foundation and regulate the walls to be built between party and party, as to the breadth and thickneſs thereof: Which foundation ſhall be laid equally upon the lands of the perſons between whom ſuch party-walls are to be built, and ſhall be of the breadth and thickneſs determined by ſuch perſon proper; and the firſt builder ſhall be reimburſed one moiety of the charge of ſuch party-wall, or ſo much thereof as the next builder ſhall have occaſion to make uſe of, before ſuch ext builder ſhall any ways uſe or break into the wall—The charge or value thereof to be ſet by he perſon or perſons ſo appointed by the Commiſſioners.

5th. As temporary conveniencies will be proper for lodging workmen and ſecuring materials for building, it is to be underſtood that ſuch may be erected with the approbation of the Commiſſioners: But they may be removed or diſcontinued by the ſpecial order of the Commiſſioners.

6th. The way into the ſquares being deſigned i a ſpecial manner for the common uſe and convenience of the occupiers of the reſpective ſquares—The property in the ſame is reſerved to the public, ſo that there may be an immediate interference on any abuſe of the uſe thereof by any individual, to the nuiſance or obſtruction of others. The proprietors of the Lots adjoining the entrance into the ſquares, on arching over the entrance, and fixing gates in the manner the Commiſſioners ſhall approve, ſhall be intitled to divide the ſpace over the arching and build it up with the range of that line of the ſquare.

7th. No vaults ſhall be permitted under the ſtreets, nor any encroachments on the foot way above by ſteps, ſtoops, porches, cellar doors, windows, ditches or leaning walls; nor ſhall there be any projection over the ſtreet, other than the eves of the houſe, without the conſent of the Commiſſioners.

8th. Theſe regulations are the terms and conditions under and upon which conveyances are to be made, according to the deeds in truſt of the lands within the city.

George Waſhington.

TERMS of SALE of LOTS in the CITY of WASHINGTON, the Eighth Day of *October*, 1792.

ALL Lands purchaſed at this Sale, are to be ſubject to the Terms and Conditions declared by the Preſident, purſuant to the Deeds in Truſt.

The purchaſer is immediately to pay one fourth part of the purchaſe money; the reſidue is to be paid in three equal annual payments, with yearly intereſt of ſix per cent. on the whole principal unpaid: If any payment is not made at the day, the payments made are to be forfeited, or the whole principal and intereſt unpaid may be recovered on one ſuit and execution in the option of the Commiſſioners.

The purchaſer is to be entitled to a conveyance, on the whole purchaſe money and intereſt being paid, and not before. No bid under Three Dollars to be received

BUILDING REGULATIONS AND TERMS OF SALE OF LOTS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL TO THE PUBLIC, OCTOBER, 1792

THE WRITINGS OF

George Washington

from the

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1745–1799

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THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Saturday Morning [March 10, 1792.]

My dear Sir: I was informed last Night by Mr. Bard [1] that a Comee. of three, of which he was one, were to be with me on Monday Morning upon the Subject of the Algarene business. The Senate do not know how to get money for the purpose without the Agency of the Reps. and they are affraid to make the Conr [*sic*]

I wish you to consider this matter, and if not before, to let me see you by half after 7 Oclock on Monday Morng.

Genl. Knox is to be with me on the appointments of the Officers at ten today and will keep me employed most of the day, the forenoon I mean. Yrs. etc.[2]

To JOHN ARMSTRONG

(Private)

Philadelphia, March 11, 1792.

Dear Sir: I am persuaded that no one will be more ready than yourself to make the proper allowances for my not having sooner acknowledged the receipt of your friendly letter of the 23d. of December, as you there express a conviction, that the pressure of my public duties will allow me but very little time

[1] Dr. John Bard, of New York.
[2] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

to attend to my private correspondences. This is literally the truth, and to it must be imputed the lateness as well as the brevity of this letter.

The loss of the brave Officers and men, who fell in the late unfortunate affair at the westward,[3] is, I hope, the only one which the Public sustain on the occasion, that cannot be readily repaired. The loss of these is not only painful to their friends; but is a subject of serious regret to the Public. It is not, however, our part to despond; we must pursue such measures as appear best calculated to retrieve our misfortune, and give a happy issue to the business. I am sure there never was a people, who had more reason to acknowledge a divine interposition in their affairs, than those of the United States; and I should be pained to believe that they have forgotten that agency, which was so often manifested during our Revolution, or that they failed to consider the omnipotence of that God who is alone able to protect them.

Your friendly wishes for my happiness and prosperity are received with gratitude, and are sincerely reciprocated by, dear Sir, your affectionate, &c.[4]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Monday Morng. [March 12, 1792.]

The P.—— would be glad to see Mr. Jefferson immediately, and requests him to bring the Copy of the P——t's letter to the French King[5] with him.[6]

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[3] "St. Clair's defeat."

[4] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[5] A purely formal one, in reply to one from King Louis, announcing his acceptance of the French constitution, is dated March 14. A press copy of a copy of the letter is in the *Jefferson Papers.* The King's letter was sent to Congress with a brief message (March 5) by the President. This message is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers,* and a copy of the King's letter is also recorded therein.

[6] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To GIUSEPPE CERACCHI

March 12 ,1792.

The President of the U. S. presents his compliments to Mr. Ciracchi and with many thanks for his offer of the very elegant figures sent him,[7] begs leave to restore them again to Mr. Ciracchi. his situation calling for uniformity of conduct in these cases, he relies that Mr. Ciracchi will ascribe it in the present instance to it's true motives, and accept the assurances the President now gives him of the high sense he entertains of his talents and merit.[8]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Wednesday Afternoon, March 14, 1792.

At the time Mr. Jeffersons letter to the President[9] was put into his hands he was so much engaged as hardly to find time to read it. The general purport of it, however, he well recollects was agreeable to him but whether the following ideas if they are not already substantially expressed, might not with propriety be conveyed, Mr. Jefferson will judge of, and act accordingly.

That no farther movement on the part of Government, can ever be made towards Majr. L'Enfant without prostration, *which will not be done.* That the P—— thinks himself

[7] Ceracchi, an Italian sculptor, proposed to erect a monument to American liberty. This monument had been authorized by a resolve of the Continental Congress of Aug. 7, 1783. The House of Representatives adopted a report of its committee on May 7, 1792, which held that "at the present time, it might not be expedient to go into the expenses which the monument voted by Congress . . . would require." From *Annals of Congress,* May 7, 1792. Ceracchi's letter and proposal, dated Oct. 31, 1791, are in the *Washington Papers.* He signs himself therein Joseph Ceracchi.

[8] From a press copy of the draft, in Jefferson's writing, in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[9] Not now found either in the *Washington Papers* or *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

insulted in the answer given to his Secretary, who was sent to him for the *express* purpose of removing some of his *unfounded* suspicions, viz "that he had already heard enough of this matter."

No farther overtures will *ever* be made to this Gentn. by the Government; in truth it would be useless, for in proportion as attempts have been made to accomodate what *appeared* to be his wishes, he has receded from his own ground. If therefore his conduct should change and a reinstatement of him is desired, the *only* way to effect it is by a direct application to the Commissioners.[10]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Wednesday, ½ past 6 Oclock [March 14, 1792.]

The P—— put Mr. J——n's Suggestions,[11] respecting the Post Office, into the hands of the Postmaster Genl. yesterday and requested him to be here at half past Seven (Genl. Knox being soon after) this Morning. If Mr. J—— is at leisure the P—— would be glad to see him here at the sametime, on that business.[10]

To WILLIAM MOULTRIE

Philadelphia, March 14, 1792.

Dear Sir: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 28th. of November, and 29th. of December, and to inform you that the plants which you had the goodness to send me, arrived at Norfolk (the ice not permitting the Vessel to reach Baltimore) where they are put into the hands of a

[10] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[11] A press copy of Jefferson's suggestions for speeding up the post-riders is filed at the end of March, 1792, in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

Gentleman, who will forward them to Mount Vernon by the first opportunity.

Were I not assured of the pleasure which you take in obliging me, I should be at a loss how to express my acknowledgments for the kind attention which you have shewn to my wishes in sending these plants. But you have not, however less of my thanks from the circumstance of my knowing your goodness.

I am persuaded that Lord Wycombe will not consider Charleston as among the least agreeable of the places he has visited in the United States. The acknowledged hospitality and politeness of its inhabitants cannot fail of making proper impressions upon the respectable foreigners who may visit that City.

The unfortunate affair to the westward is, I hope, more to be regretted on account of the loss of those brave Officers and men who fell on the occasion, than of any other serious influence it may have on our public affairs. We are, happily, in a situation to repair every other loss, but that of lives.

I shall give you the trouble of presenting me to the recollection of the Ladies in the circle in which you move, and that you would be assured of the sincere esteem and regard with which I am etc.[12]

To GOVERNOR CHARLES PINCKNEY

(Private)

Philadelphia, March 17, 1792.

Dear Sir: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 8th. of January, and their duplicates. That

[12] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

of a public nature, on the subject of a proposed application from yourself to the Governor of East Florida, for the redelivery of certain fugitives charged with having forged the Indents assumed by the U. States, will be answered by the Secretary of State.[13] To your private favor I shall now reply. And in the first place, let me beg your acceptance of my thanks for the remembrance of, and kind attention to my wishes in sending the box of seeds, which I have received by Captain Ort.

I am flattered by the regret which you express at having been absent from Charleston during the stay of Lord Wycombe in that City, and being thereby deprived of an opportunity of paying the attention which you wished to that Nobleman to whom I had given a letter for you; and am glad that his intention of returning among you, after having visited the Floridas, will permit you to do it.

I must say that I lament the decision of your legislature upon the question of importing Slaves after March 1793. I was in hopes that motives of policy, as well as other good reasons supported by the direful effects of Slavery which at this moment are presented, would have operated to produce a total prohibition of the importation of Slaves whenever the question came to be agitated in any State that might be interested in the measure.

Our misfortune at the westward is certainly a circumstance much to be regretted: but it affords consolation to know, that every public loss on that occasion may be readily repaired, except that of the lives of the brave Officers and men, who fell in the conflict. I believe with you, that the absence of the Cherokee chiefs from their Nation at so critical a moment, was a fortunate event; and I trust they have received such impressions

[13] See Washington's letter to the Secretary of State, Mar. 25, 1792, *post*.

here, as will not fail to have a happy influence in their nation with regard to us.

If in the course of our military arrangements, it should be found compatible with the plan which it is proposed to adopt, to require the services of Genl. Pickens, I shall not be unmindful of your recommendation of that Gentleman; and from his talents, knowledge, and influence, should look for the best effects. But I most sincerely join with you in hoping, that the war with the Indians may not extend so far to the southward, as to render your frontiers an object of immediate defence. I beg my best respects may be presented to Mrs. Pinckney, and to Colo. Laurens,[14] when you see him. With very great esteem and regard, I am &c.[15]

To SAMUEL POTTS

Philadelphia, March 18, 1792.

Sir: Your letter of the 31st. of October, on the subject of a Legacy left by Mrs. Savage to Mrs. Bomford, has been received; and shall be transmitted to the Revd. Mr. Fairfax, whose avocations not being of the constant and indispensible nature that mine have been and still are, having given him better opportunities of attending to the affairs of the late Mrs. Savage than I have had; his knowledge of the situation of that business is therefore much more accurate than mine. You will see by the enclosed copy of a letter which I wrote to Mrs. Bomford on the 6th. of January 1790, that it has been totally out of my power to pay any attention to the Affairs of Mrs. Savage since the year 1775, and that I have referred her to Mr. Fairfax, to whom I must likewise beg leave to refer you. I am etc.[15]

[14] Henry Laurens.
[15] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To REVEREND BRYAN FAIRFAX

Philadelphia, March 19, 1792.

Dear Sir: I enclose you a letter which I have received from a Mr. Samuel Potts, on the subject of a Legacy left to Mrs. Bomford by the late Mrs. Savage.

It is unnecessary to detail to you, my dear Sir, the causes which have put it out of my power to pay any attention to the affairs of Mrs. Savage since the year 1775. You know them well. And I can only assure you that they still exist, and in a stronger degree, if possible, than heretofore. I must, therefore, as I have before mentioned to you, rely upon your endeavours to have every thing relative to that unfortunate womans affairs brought to a close as speedily as the nature of the case will admit: and as you must have a much better knowledge of the present situation of them than I can have, I have referred Mr. Potts (as I before did Mrs. Bomford herself) to you for information on the subject; not doubting but you will give him all the satisfaction in your power relative to the business.

Mrs. Washington joins her best wishes for yourself, Mrs. Fairfax and your family, to those of, Dear Sir, Your etc.[16]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, March 20, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: The several Acts which have been passed relatively to the Military Establishment of the United States and the protection of the frontiers, do not appear to have made provision for more

[16] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

than one Brigadier General. It is incumbent upon me to observe, that with a view merely to the organization of the troops designated in these Acts, a greater number of Officers of that grade would, in my opinion, be conductive to the good of the Public service. But an increase of the number becomes still more desireable, in referrence to a different organization which is contemplated, pursuant to the authority vested in me for that purpose, and which, besides other advantages expected from it, is recommended by considerations of œconomy.

I therefore request that you will be pleased to take this subject into your early consideration, and to adopt such measures thereon as you shall judge proper.[17]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Wednesday Afternoon [March 21, 1792.]

Dear Sir: Tomorrow I shall be engaged all day; but will, in the course of it, fix a time to view the Big bones at Doctr. Wisters.[18]

I hope Mr. Blodget[19] does not begin to hesitate concerning the loan? And I hope the Commmissioners, when they are about it, will build a Stone bridge and a complete one, over Rock Creek, it will be the cheapest in the end. Yrs. etc.[20]

To THE SENATE

United States, March 23, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate: At the conference which Colonel Pickering had with the five Nations at the painted Post the last

[17] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*
[18] Dr. Caspar Wistar.
[19] Samuel Blodgett.
[20] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

year, the ideas were then held out of introducing among them some of the primary principles of civilization. In consequence of which, as well as more firmly to attach them to the interests of the United States they have been invited to the seat of the general Government.

As the representation now here, is respectable for its characters and influence, it is of some importance that the Chiefs should be well satisfied of the entire good faith and liberality of the United States.

In managing the affairs of the Indian tribes, generally, it appears proper to teach them to expect annual presents conditioned on the evidence of their attachment to the interests of the United States. The situation of the five nations, and the present crisis of affairs would seem to render the extension of this measure to them highly judicious. I therefore request the advice of the Senate, whether an Article shall be stipulated with the five nations, to the following purport. To wit:

The United States, in order to promote the happiness of the five nations of Indians, will cause to be expended annually the amount of One thousand five hundred dollars, in purchasing for them clothing, domestic animals and impliments of husbandry, and for encourageing useful artificers to reside in their Villages.[21]

To HANNAH FAIRFAX WASHINGTON[22]

Philadelphia, March 24, 1792.

Dear Madam: Having lately received from Sir Isaac Heard[23] a letter, with a sketch of a genealogical table of the family of Washington,[24] I have taken the liberty to enclose copies of them

[21] This message, which is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*, was read in the Senate, March 26, and the stipulation agreed to the same day.

[22] Widow of Warner Washington, and then living at "Fairfield," Va.

[23] Garter King of Arms, College of Heraldry, London.

[24] In the *Washington Papers*.

to you, begging your assistance to enable me to comply with the request he has made (if among the Papers of my deceased relation there be any trace of this matter) that I will complete the sketch, by making the additions which are there wanting, or rather by filling up the blanks.

As I have heretofore paid but little attention to this subject, and my present avocations not permitting me to make the necessary researches now, I am induced to ask your aid, presuming, as your late Husband's father was older than mine you might, either from your own knowledge or a recurrence to documents, or tables in your possession, be able to complete the sketch, and thereby put it in my power to comply with the request of Sr. Isaac Heard, which seems to be made with much earnestness, and to which an attention seems due, on account of his politeness. This must be my excuse for giving you the trouble of receiving and answering this letter as soon as you can make it convenient.[25] I am etc.[26]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Saturday Afternoon [March 24, 1792.]

The Letters from Mr. de Mirbeck[27] and Mr. Vall-travers[28] to the P—— and from the Proprietors of the Federal City[29] to Mr. Walker, he wishes Mr. Jefferson to read and consider, that answers to, or proper notice of them, may result from it.[30]

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[25] Mrs. Washington's reply, dated April 9, is in the *Washington Papers.*

[26] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[27] Not now found in the *Washington Papers.*

[28] Rodolph Vall-travers wrote half a dozen letters from Rotterdam to various officials in the course of several years. Some of these, including his letter to *Washington,* Nov. 30, 1791, are in the *Washington Papers.*

[29] This letter is in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* and is signed by Robert Peter, John Davidson, Samuel Davidson, James M. Lingan, Abraham Young, William King, Ben Stoddert, Uriah Forrest, Wm. Prout, Overton Carr, David Burnes, and Elephaz Douglas.

[30] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

March 25, 1792.

The President of the United States has attentively considered the "Project of a Convention with the Spanish Provences[31]" which was submitted to him by the Secretary of State, and informs him that the same meets his approbation. The President, however, thinks it proper to observe, that in perusing the before-mentioned Project some doubts arose in his mind as to the expediency of two points mentioned therein. The one relative to instituting a civil, instead of a criminal process against Forgerers; who, generally, if not always, are possessed of little property. The other, respecting the *unlimited* time in which a person may be liable to an Action.

By expressing these quæries the President would not be understood as objecting to the points touched upon; he only wishes to draw the Secretary's further attention to them, and if he should, upon reconsideration, think it right for them to stand upon their present footing the President acquiesces therein.[32]

To GOVERNOR ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

Philadelphia, March 28, 1792.

Sir: Your knowledge of the Country north-west of the Ohio, and of the resources for an Army in its vicinity, added to a full confidence in your military character, founded on mature experience, induced my nomination of you to the command of the troops on the frontiers.

Your desire of rectifying any errors of the public opinion, relatively to your conduct, by an investigation of a Court of

[31] A press copy of the "Project" is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress under date of Mar. 22, 1792.

[32] From the original in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

Enquiry, is highly laudable, and would be readily complied with, were the measure practicable. But a total deficiency of Officers, in actual service, of competent rank to form a legal Court, for that purpose, precludes the power of gratifying your wishes on this occasion.

The intimation of your readiness to afford your successor all the information of which you are capable, although unnecessary for my personal conviction, must be regarded as an additional evidence of the goodness of your heart, and of your attachment to your Country. I am &c.[33] [H. L.]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Friday Morning [March 30, 1792.]

The enclosed Instrumt. does not accord with my recollection of Mr. Blodgets proposed Loan,[34] and I confess I had much rather see a clear expression of the intention than to meet an explanation of it afterwards by one of the parties, to the contract.

The *number* of Lots to be Mortgaged I do not positively recollect; but sure I am one half were to be North of an East and West line from the Presidents House. I do not remember that the words *"valuable Lots"* were inserted in the proposition of Mr. Blodget and think the Mortgaged Lots were releasable by the substitn. of others. If therefore the subsequent instrument should not place these matters in a very precise

[33] In the writing of Tobias Lear.

In the *St. Clair Papers* (Smith edition, Cincinnati: 1882), vol. 2, p. 284, the following paragraph is added to the printed text of this letter: "Private. While I accept your resignation for the cause you state, I sincerely regret the occasion. I fervently hope that your health may be perfectly re-established, and that you may enjoy uninterrupted happiness." (See Washington's letter to the Secretary of State, Mar. 2, 1792, *ante*.)

[34] Samuel Blodgett was authorized to secure a loan in Boston on city property in the District of Columbia, but failed in his endeavor.

point of view, a foundation will be laid for much discontent, and probably disputes.

Did you see Mr. White[35] yesterday? and in that case what was his opinion respecting M——n's[36] acceptance in the manner suggested?[37]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

April 1, 1792.

The President of the U. States has read, and approves the draught of the Secretary of States letter[38] to the Govr. of So. Carolina of this date.[39]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Wednesday Morning [April 4, 1792.]

Dear Sir: Am I right in under standing, as the result of the Conversation you had with Mr. White, that it was his opinion

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[35] Alexander White. He was a Member of Congress from Virginia, who became a Commissioner of the District in 1795.

[36] Daniel Morgan.

[37] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

In *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress is a draft in Thomas Jefferson's writing of "A Declaration to be made by the President" in regard to the above Blodgett loan. It is dated Mar. 6, 1792. There is also an undated memorandum in Thomas Jefferson's writing of various matters to be attended to respecting the seat of government. To the items Washington has added the following:

"Quary Stone to be raised by Skilful People.

"on the Security of the State of Maryland 4 or 500,000 dollars. The buildings, especially the Capitol, ought to be upon a scale far superior to any thing in *this* Country; the House for the President should also (in the design though not executed all at once) be upon a Commensurate scale.

"Measures, in my opinion ought to be taken for importing Highlanders and Germans as laborers; Mechanics also; if practicable.

"Carroll of Duddingtons Ho. ought not to be paid for by the Valuation rendered; but every material taken care of; and put up again (where they are not injured) in the manner they were before in a proper situation.

"Estimates &ca. are sent to shew the views &ca. of Majr. LEnfant."

The approximate date is March, 1792.

[38] A press copy of Jefferson's letter to Gov. Charles Pinckney, Apr. 1, 1792, is in the *Jefferson Papers*. It relates to the matter of fugitive criminals in Spanish territory and inclosed a copy of the project of a convention covering the subject to be negotiated with Spain.

[39] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Genl. Morgan would serve under Officers superior to him in Rank in the Army about to be raised? I want to get the appointments closed, but wish to know, previously, whether this was Mr. Whites opinion. Yours etc.[40]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

United States, April 4, 1792.

Sir: You will lay before the House of Representatives such papers from your Department, as are requested by the enclosed Resolution.[41]

N. B. The papers alluded to are such as relate to the expedition under Genl. St. Clair.[42]

To GOVERNOR ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

United States, April 4, 1792.

Sir: I have read and duly considered your letter of the 31st ultimo. The reasons you offer, for retaining your commission, until an opportunity should be presented, if necessary, of

[40] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[41] The resolution was one of the select committee of the House, which had been appointed March 27 to investigate the causes of St. Clair's defeat, with power to call for any papers necessary. This committee had requested from Knox, direct, all the papers connected with St. Clair's expedition and, before complying, Knox had laid the matter before the President for his approval. The President laid the matter before a meeting (March 31) of his Cabinet Members, consisting of Hamilton, Knox, Jefferson, and Randolph. "The President said he had called us to consult, merely because it was the first example, and he wished that so far as it shd. become a precedent, it should be rightly conducted. He neither acknowledged nor denied, nor even doubted the propriety of what the house was doing. . . ." On April 2 the Cabinet met on the same subject "We . . . were of one mind. 1. that the house was an inquest, and therefore might institute inquiries. 2. that they might call for papers generally. 3. that the Executive ought to communicate such papers as the public good would permit, and ought to refuse those the disclosure of which would injure the public. Consequently were to exercise a discretion. 4. that neither the commee nor House had a right to call on the head of a deptmt, who and whose papers were under the Presidt. alone, but that the commee shd instruct their chairman to move the house to address the President." From Jefferson's *Anas,* as printed in *Jefferson's Writings* (P. L. Ford, Federal edition, New York: 1904), vol. 2, pp. 213–214.

[42] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

investigating your conduct, in every mode prescribed by law, would be conclusive with me, under any other circumstances than the present. But, the establishment of the troops allows only of one major general. You have manifested your intention of retiring, and the essential interests of the public require, that your successor should be immediately appointed, in order to repair to the frontiers.

As the house of Representatives have been pleased to institute an enquiry into the causes of the failure of the late expedition, I should hope an opportunity would thereby be afforded you, of explaining your conduct, in a manner satisfactory to the public and yourself.[43]

To THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(Veto Message)

United States, April 5, 1792.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: I have maturely considered the Act passed by the two Houses, intitled, "An Act for an apportionment of Representatives among the several States according to the first enumeration,"[44] and I return it to your House, wherein it originated, with the following objections.

First: The Constitution has prescribed that Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States, according to their respective Numbers: and there is no one proportion or division which, applied to the respective numbers of the States,

[43] From the printed text in the *Territorial Papers of the United States* (C. E. Carter edition, Washington: 1934), vol. 2, p. 386.

[44] On April 6 the "Apportionment Bill," as it was called, was reconsidered in the light of the President's veto and failed to pass over the same. This is recorded in the *Annals of Congress* of that date. A digest of the opinions of the Secretaries of State, Treasury, and War, and of the Attorney General on the constitutionality of the bill, in the writing of Tobias Lear, is in the *Washington Papers* filed at the end of April, 1792.

will yield the number and allotment of Representatives proposed by the bill.

Second. The Constitution has also provided that the number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand: which restriction is, by the context, and by fair and obvious construction, to be applied to the seperate and respective numbers of the States: and the bill has allotted to eight of the States more than one for thirty thousand.[45]

*To ELIZABETH WASHINGTON LEWIS

Philadelphia, April 8, 1792.

My dear Sister: If your Son Howell is living with you, and not usefully employed in your own Affairs; and should incline to spend a few months with me, as a writer in my Office (if he is fit for it) I will allow him at the rate of Three hundred dollars a year, provided he is diligent in discharging the duties of it from breakfast until dinner, Sundays excepted. This sum will be punctually paid him and I am particular in declaring beforehand what I require, and what he may expect, that there may be no disappointment, or false expectations on either side. He will live in the family in the same manner his brother Robert did. If the offer is acceptable he must hold himself in readiness to come on immediately upon my giving him notice. I take it for granted that he writes a fair and legible hand, otherwise he would not answer my purpose; as it is for recording letters, and other papers I want him. That I may be enabled to judge of his fitness let him acknowledge the receipt of this letter with his own hand, and say whether he will accept the offer here made him, or not. If he does, and I find him qualified from the specimen he gives in his letter I will immediately

[45] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

desire him to come on which he must do without a moments delay, or I shall be obliged to provide another instead of him.

Mrs. Washington unites with me in best wishes, and love for you and yours and I am, etc.[46]

To DAVID STUART

Philadelphia, April 8, 1792.

Dear Sir: The letter from the Commissioners to Mr. Jefferson of the has been laid before me, and I have desired him to approve the Contract respecting the bridge over Rock-creek: but in future, it would be more agreeable to me, after a plan, or the principles leading to the measure, is approved, not to have the details or the execution suspended for a reference to me. Because, to judge properly of the matter must (in many instances) depend upon calculation; upon accustomed modes; established prices, and usages of different places; none of which my time and avocations will allow me to investigate with promptness; consequently the business must be delayed (if I take time for examination) or I must decide in the dark, if I do not.

This has actually been the case with respect to the Bridge above mentioned; for if I had been called upon to say what such a bridge wou'd cost, I should have guessed less than the contract price. And though the Items which form the aggregate, may contain no more materials than are indispensably necessary; and the prices of them, and rates of work, not more than usual, yet, from a want of knowledge in these matters, both appear high to me.

Not for this reason, but because you have jealous and ill-disposed people about you, my advice to you, is to act with caution

[46] From a facsimile in the *Magazine of American History*, vol. 21, p. 294.

in all your contracts: and I give it with the freedom of friendship, because it has been insinuated, before the contract was made, that sufficient notice had not been given; and of course you would have no competitors for the undertaking of the Bridge.[47]

Did Major L'Enfant assign any reason for his rejection of the compensation which had been offered him? Has any person applied for the Office of Superintendant? A Mr. Blodget has been recommended by some of the Proprietors; but except being pretty deeply interested in the City, having been a pretty considerable traveller in European Countries, and an observant man with some taste, it is said, I can say nothing of his qualifications for such a trust. How far he is a man of industry, arrangement, and integrity I know not, having a very slight acquaintance with him personally, and less knowledge of his abilities.

There is such an intimate connection in political and pecuniary considerations between the federal district and the inland navigation of the Potowmac, that no exertions, in my opinion, shou'd be dispensed with to accomplish the latter. For, in proportion as this advances, the City will be benefited. Public and private motives therefore combine to hasten this work. My best wishes to Mrs. Stuart and the family. I am etc.[48]

To REVEREND JOHN CARROLL[49]

Philadelphia, April 10, 1792.

Sir: I have received and duly considered your memorial of the 20th. ultimo, on the subject of the instructing the Indians

[47] The bridge was to be of stone. It was located, says Bryan, in his *History of the National Capital,* "across Rock Creek on a line with K street." Insecurely constructed, it either fell or had to be taken down in 1795, and was not replaced during Washington's presidency.

[48] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[49] First Roman Catholic Bishop in the United States. He lived in Baltimore, Md.

within, and contiguous to the United States, in the principles and duties of christianity.

The war now existing between the United States and some tribes of the western Indians prevents, for the present, any interference of this nature with them. The Indians of the five nations are, in their religious concerns, under the immediate superintendance of the Revd. Mr. Kirkland; and those who dwell in the eastern extremity of the United States are, according to the best information that I can obtain, so situated as to be rather considered as a part of the inhabitants of the State of massachusetts than otherwise, and that State has always considered them as under its immediate care and protection. Any application therefore relative to these Indians, for the purposes mentioned in your memorial, would seem most proper to be made to the Government of massachusetts. The original letters on this subject, which were submitted to my inspection, have been returned to Charles Carroll, Esq. of [50]

Impressed as I am with an opinion, that the most effectual means of securing the permanent attachment of our savage neighbors, is to convince them that we are just, and to shew them that a proper and friendly intercourse with us would be for our mutual advantage: I cannot conclude without giving you my thanks for your pious and benevolent wishes to effect this desirable end, upon the mild principles of Religion and Philanthropy. And when a proper occasion shall offer, I have no doubt but such measures will be pursued as may seem best calculated to communicate liberal instruction, and the blessings of society, to their untutored minds. With very great esteem etc.[51]

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[50] Carrollton.

[51] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 13, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I have thought it proper to lay before you a communication of the 11th instant from the Minister Plenipotentiary of Great Britain, to the Secretary of State, relative to the commerce of the two Countries; together with their explanatory correspondence,[52] and the Secretary of States letter to me on the subject.[53]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, April 16, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I lay before you a letter from the Judges of the Circuit Court of the United States held for New York District, and of their opinion and agreement[54] respecting the "Act to provide for the settlement of the Claims of Widows and Orphans barred by the limitations heretofore established, and to regulate the claims to Invalid Pensions."[55]

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[52] Hammond had notified Jefferson that Great Britain would enforce her navigation act and exclude foreign vessels from the islands of Jersey and Guernsey. The letters between Jefferson and Hammond are copied in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[53] A press copy of Jefferson's letter to Washington, Apr. 13, 1792, is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[54] This opinion is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. The court declined to act as a court (as provided in the act); but "as the objects of this Act are exceedingly benevolent" they the judges "will execute this Act in the capacity of Commissioners."

[55] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On April 21 Washington laid a similar opinion from the circuit court of Pennsylvania before Congress. This message and opinion are also entered in the "Letter Book."

To JOHN CANNON

Philadelphia, April 19, 1792.

Sir: After the letter which I wrote in September last, I did not expect to have waited 'till this time for a reply. I therein stated, in as strong terms as decency would permit, the impression that your conduct, with respect to my business in your hands, had made upon me; and had no doubt but it would have drawn you to a settlement of your accounts with me, or at least produced some explanation from you: Neither of which have, however, been effected by it.

It is unnecessary for me to make any comment on your conduct in this business, you must yourself be forcibly struck with the impropriety of it. I shall, therefore, only observe, that however painful it may be to my feelings, and opposite to my wishes, yet I shall be obliged, in justice to myself, to pursue another mode of application, if this should be found ineffectual. I am etc.[56]

To ELIZABETH WILLING POWEL

Philadelphia, April 23, 1792.

Dear Madam: I pray you to accept my compliments and thanks for having favored me with the perusal of the enclosed "Strictures &c." and an assurance that the sentiments, and charges therein contained, have not given me a moments painful sensation.[57]

It is to be regretted, however, that the author, if his object was to convey accurate information to the public mind, had not devoted a little of the time and pains he appears to have

[56] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[57] Mrs. Samuel ("Eliza") Powel's letter of April 21, forwarding the pamphlet, is in the *Washington Papers.*

employed in writing this Pamphlet, in the investigation of facts. Had he done this, he would, or might have found, many of his charges as unsupported as the "Baseless fabric of a vision."

With very great esteem, regard and affection I have the honor etc.[58]

*To OTHO HOLLAND WILLIAMS

(Private)

Philadelphia, April 26, 1792.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 18th. Instt. came duly to hand, as did the one to which it alludes.[59] To the latter I could make no reply for reasons which will (perhaps have) occurred to you. Sensible however, if you had not assured me of it, that you meant not to give me pain by the proposition therein contained, I can assure you that I feel none, and that, with the same esteem and regard I always professed to have for you, I remain etc.[60]

To ELIZABETH WASHINGTON LEWIS

Philadelphia, April 26, 1792.

Dear Sister: Mr. James Robardet, who has taught my two Grand children dancing proposes going into your part of the Country to establish a School, if he should meet with sufficient encouragement, and has requested that I would give him a line of recommendation to some of my friends. Mr. Robardet's

[58] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[59] Both of Williams's letters (March 22 and April 18) are in the *Washington Papers*. The purport of the letter of March 22 was that Williams might be elected Governor of Maryland, and he suggested, in that event, that William Smith succeed him as Collector of the Port of Baltimore.

[60] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by E. F. Bonaventure, of New York.

attention to my grand children, and the progress which they have made under his instruction, induce me to recommend him on these accounts from my own knowledge: He has likewise kept a dancing School in this City the winter past, in which I am informed he has given much satisfaction, and his conduct has been marked with decency and propriety, so far as I have heard.[61]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Saturday forenoon, April 28, 1792.

In strict confidence the President of the U. S sends the enclosed letter for the perusal of the Secretary of State. *No other person* has seen, or been made acquainted with the contents. It is necessary the Secretary should be informed of the circumstances related in the letter. 'Tis possible, these politics may have contributed to the change in the Spanish Ministry. I wish Mr. Short was, or soon would be, at that Court. I think also Mr. Morris should be urged to embrace every favourable moment to relieve this Country from the impositions laid by France on our (Tobacco) trade &ca.[62]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Wednesday Morng. [April, 1792.]

Dr Sir: Has G——— W———[63]n decided yet? Has any answer been prepared for G——— St ———[64] I am anxious to have these matters closed.

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[61] This same letter, which is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers,* was sent to Mrs. William(?) Herbert in Alexandria, Va., with the necessary change to "Dear Madam:"

[62] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[63] Brig. Gen. James Wilkinson.

[64] Maj. Gen. Arthur St. Clair.

Also for the departure of T———[65] and that the business with the Indians may be brought to a conclusion. Yrs. always.

[H. L.]

To THE EARL OF BUCHAN

Philadelphia May 1, 1792.

My Lord: I should have had the honor of acknowledging sooner the receipt of your letter of the 28th. of June last, had I not concluded to defer doing it 'till I could announce to you the transmission of my portrait, which has been just finished by Mr. Robinson,[66] (of New York), who has also undertaken to forward it. The manner of the execution does no discredit, I am told, to the artist; of whose skill favorable mention has been made to me. I was further induced to intrust the execution to Mr. Robinson, from his having informed me, that he had drawn others for your Lordship, and knew the size which would best suit your collection.

I accept with sensibility and with satisfaction, the significant present of the Box which accompanied your Lordship's letter.[67] In yielding the tribute due from every lover of mankind to the patriotic and heroic virtues, of which it is commemorative, I estimate, as I ought, the additional value which it derives from the hand that sent it; and my obligation for the sentiments that induced the transfer.

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[65] Capt. Alexander Trueman, of the First U. S. Infantry. He was appointed commissioner to treat with the Indians; promoted to major in April, 1792; killed by the Indians in August of that year.

[66] Archibald Robertson. Washington committed to him this letter to Buchan in a brief note of May 1, which is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[67] Buchan's letter of Sept. 15, 1791, was abstracted by Sprague, who left a copy in the *Washington Papers*, which reads: "Some time ago I did myself the pleasure to transmit to you by Mr. Robertson of Aberdeen a testimony of my sincere respect contained in a box made of the venerable oak which sheltered our great Wallace after his defeat at Falkirk, which box was cut out of the tree by the proprietor and sent to the Corporation of Goldsmiths at Edinh and by them presented to me with the freedom of their company in the box above mentioned and which I hope you will receive. It is a respectable curiosity and will I flatter myself be a relic of long endurance in America, as a mark of that esteem with which I have the honor to be, &c."

I will, however ask, that you will exempt me from a compliance with the request relating to its eventual destination. In an attempt to execute your wish in this particular, I should feel embarrassment from a just comparison of relative pretensions, and shou'd fear to risk injustice, by so marked a preference. With sentiments of the truest esteem and consideration, I remain &c.[68]

*WASHINGTON GENEALOGY

Philadelphia, May 2, 1792.

In the year 1657, or thereabouts,
and during the Usurpation
of
Oliver Cromwell

John and Lawrence Washington, Brothers Emigrated from the north of England, and settled at Bridges Creek, on Potomac river, in the County of Westmoreland. But from whom they descended the subscriber is possessed of no document to ascertain.

John Washington was employed as General against the Indians in Maryland, and as a reward for his Services was made a Colonel; and the Parish wherein he lived was called after him.

He married Ann Pope, and left issue two Sons, Lawrence and John, and one daughter Ann, who married Major Francis Wright. The time of his death the subscriber is not able to ascertain,[69] but it appears that he was Interred in a Vault which had been erected at Bridges Creek.

Lawrence Washington his eldest son, married Mildred Warner, daughter of Colo. Augustine Warner of Gloucester County, by whom he had two sons, John and Augustine, and one daugh-

[68] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[69] About 1677, according to Ford.

ter named Mildred. He died in 1697 and was interred in the family Vault at Bridges Creek.

John Washington the eldest son of Lawrence and Mildred, married Catharine Whiting of Gloucester County, where he settled, died[70] and was buried. He had two Sons, Warner and Henry, and three daughters, Mildred, Elizabeth and Catharine, all of whom are dead.

Warner Washington married, first, Elizabeth Macon daughter of Colo. William Macon of New Kent County, by whom he had one Son, who is now living and bears the name of Warner. His second wife was Hannah, youngest daughter of the Honble. William Fairfax; by whom he left two Sons and five daughters, as follow: viz. Mildred, Hannah, Catharine, Elizabeth, Louisa Fairfax and Whiting. The three oldest of the daughters are married. Mildred to —— Throckmorton,[71] Hannah to —— Whiting,[72] and Catharine to —— Nelson.[73] After his second marriage he removed from Gloucester and settled in Frederick County, where he died, in 1791, and was buried.

Warner Washington his son married —— Whiting[74] of Gloucester, by whom he has many sons and daughters; the eldest is called Warner and is now nearly if not quite of age.

Henry, the other Son of John and Catharine Washington, married the daughter of Colonel Thacker[75] of Middlesex County, and died many years ago, leaving one Son, Thacker, and two or three daughters.

Thacker Washington married the daughter of Sir John Peyton[76] of Gloucester County and lives on the family estate, left

[70] Sept. 1, 1746, according to Ford.
[71] Albion Throckmorton, according to Ford.
[72] Peter Beverly Whiting, according to Ford.
[73] John Nelson, according to Ford.
[74] Mary Whiting, according to Ford.
[75] Anne, daughter of Col. Edwin Thacker, according to Ford.
[76] Harriet Peyton, according to Ford.

to his Grandfather John at Machodac in the County of Westmoreland. He has several Children, but what are their Sex, is not known to the Subscriber.

Mildred, daughter of John and Catharine of Gloucester was twice married, but never had a child; Elizabeth never was married; Catharine married Fielding Lewis by whom she had a son and daughter, John, the eldest, is now living, Frances died without issue.

Augustine, son of Lawrence and Mildred Washington, married Jane Butler, the daughter of Caleb Butler of Westmoreland April 20th. 1715 by whom he had three Sons, Butler (who died young) Lawrence and Augustine, and one daughter Jane, who died when a child. Jane, wife of Augustine died Novr. 24th. 1728 and was buried in the family Vault at Bridges Creek.

Augustine then married Ball[77] March 6th. 1730: by whom he had issue George now President of the United States born February 11th. (old style) 1732; Betty, born June 20th. 1733; Samuel, born Novr. 16th. 1734; John Augustine, born Jany. 13th. 1735; Charles May 1st. 1738; and Mildred June 21st. 1739; who died Octr. 28th. 1740. Augustine departed this life April 12th. 1743 aged 49 years and was interred at Bridges Creek in the Vault of his Ancestors.[78]

Lawrence, Son of Augustine and Jane Washington, married July 19th. 1743; Ann, eldest daughter of the Honble. William Fairfax of Fairfax County, by whom he had issue Jane, born Septr. 27th. 1744, who died Jany. 1745. Fairfax born August 22d. 1747 who died in Octo. 1747, Mildred, born Septr. 28th. 1748 who died in 1749, Sarah, born Novr. 7th. 1750 who died in 175–. In 1752 Lawrence himself died aged about 34 and was interred in a Vault which he had caused to be erected at Mount

[77] Mary Ball.

[78] Hannah Washington's letter (Apr. 9, 1792) states that "Augustine [Washington] moved to prince William Co. in the year 1734."

Vernon in Fairfax County where he settled after he returned from the Carthagena Expedition and died.

Augustine, Son of Augustine and Jane Washington married Ann, daughter and Co-heiress of William Aylett of Westmoreland County, by whom he had many children, all of whom died in their non-age and single except Elizabeth (who married Alexander Spotswood of Spotsylvania County, Grandson of Genl. Spotswood Governor of Virginia, by whom she has a number of Children), Ann (who married Burdet Ashton of Westmoreland, by whom she had one or two children and died young), and William who married his cousin Jane, daughter of John Augustine Washington by whom he has four childn. (names unknown to the subscriber), Augustine lived at the ancient mansion seat in Westmoreland County where he died[79] and was interred in the family Vault.

George eldest son of Augustine Washington by the second marriage was born in Westmoreland County, and married Jany. 6th. 1759 Martha Custis, widow of Danl. Parke Custis and daughter of John Dandridge, both of New Kent County. Has no issue.

Betty, daughter of Augustine and Mary Washington became the second wife of Fielding Lewis, by whom she had a number of Children, many of whom died young, but, five sons and a daughter are yet living.

Samuel, Son of Augustine and Mary was five times married. First to Jane, daughter of Colo. John Champe. 2d. to Mildred daughter of Colo. John Thornton. 3d. Lucy daughter of Nathanl. Chapman. 4th. Ann daughter of Colo. Willm. Steptoe and widow of Willoughby Allerton, 5th. to a widow Perrin. Samuel, by his second wife, Mildred, had issue one son, Thornton, who lived to be a man, was twice married and left three

[79] Apr. 12, 1743, according to Ford.

Sons. He died in, or about the year By his fourth wife Ann he had three Sons, Ferdinand, George Steptoe and Lawrence Augustine, and a daughter, Harriot. Ferdinand lived to be married, but died soon after leaving no issue; the other two sons and daughter are living and single. Samuel had children by his other wives, but they all died in their infancy. He departed this life, himself, in the year 1781 at Harewood in the County of Berkeley where he was buried.

John Augustine, son of Augustine and Mary, married Hannah Bushrod, daughter of Colo. John Bushrod of Westmoreland County, by whom he has left two Sons, Bushrod and Corbin; and two daughters, Jane and Mildred. he had several other Children, but they died young. Jane, his eldest child married (as has been before observed) William Washington, son of Augustine and Ann Washington and died in 1791 leaving four Children (names unknown to the subscriber).

Bushrod married in 1785 Ann Blackburn daughter of Colo. Thomas Blackburn of Prince William County, but has no issue. Corbin married a daughter of the Honble. Richd. Henry Lee, by whom he has three sons (names unknown). Mildred married Thomas Lee, son of the said Richard Henry Lee. John Augustine died in Feby. 1787 at his estate on Nomony in Westmoreland County and was there buried.

Charles Washington, son of Augustine and Mary married Mildred Thornton, daughter of Colonel Francis Thornton of Spotsylvania County, by whom he has four Children, George Augustine, Frances, Mildred and Samuel. George Augustine married Frances Basset, daughter of Colo. Burwell Basset of New Kent by whom he has had four Children, three of whom are living, viz. Anna Maria, George Fayette, and Charles Augustine. Frances married Colo. Burgess Ball by whom she has had several children. Mildred and Samuel are unmarried.

Mildred Washington, daughter of Lawrence and Mildred, and Sister to John and Augustine Washington married —— Gregory by whom she had three daughters, Francis, Mildred and Elizabeth, who married three brothers, Colo. Francis Thornton, Colo. John Thornton and Reuben Thornton, all of Spotsylvania County. She had for her second husband Colo. Henry Willis, and by him the present Colo. Lewis Willis of Fredericksburgh.

The above is the best account the subscriber is able to give, at present, absent as he is, and at so great a distance from Virginia, and under circumstances too which allows no time for enquiry of the family of Washington from which he is lenially descended.

The descendants of the first named Lawrence, and the second John, are also numerous; but for the reasons before mentioned, and from not having the same knowledge of them, and being moreover more remote from their places of residence. And in truth not having enquired much into the names or connection of the lateral Branches of the family I am unable to give a satisfactory account of them. But if it be in any degree necessary, or satisfactory to Sir Isaac Heard Garter Principal King of Arms; I will upon intimation thereof, set on foot an enquiry, and will at the sametime endeavor to be more particular with respect to the births, names, ages and burials of those of the branch to which the subscriber belongs.

*To SIR ISAAC HEARD

Philadelphia, May 2, 1792.

Sir: Your letter of the 7th. of December was put into my hands by Mr. Thornton; and I must request you will accept my acknowledgments, as well for the polite manner in which

you express your wishes for my happiness, as for the trouble you have taken in making genealogical collections relative to the family of Washington.

This is a subject to which I confess I have paid very little attention. My time has been so much occupied in the busy and active scenes of life from an early period of it that but a small portion of it could have been devoted to researches of this nature, even if my inclination or particular circumstances should have prompted the enquiry. I am therefore apprehensive that it will not be in my power (circumstanced as I am at present) to furnish you with materials to fill up the sketch which you have sent me, in so accurate a manner as you could wish. We have no Office of Record in this Country in which exact genealogical documents are preserved; and very few cases, I believe, occur where a recurrence to pedigree for any considerable distance back has been found necessary to establish such points as may frequently arise in older Countries.

On comparing the Tables which you sent with such documents as are in my posesssion, and which I could readily obtain from another branch of the family[80] with whom I am in the habits of corrispondence I find it to be just. I have often heard others of the family, older than myself, say that our ancestors who first settled in this Country came from some one of the Northern Counties of England, but whether from Lancashire, Yorkshire or one still more northerly I do not precisely remember. The Arms enclosed in your letter are the same that are held by the family here, though I have also seen, and have used as you may perceive by the Seal to this Packet a flying Griffen for the Crest.

If you can derive any information from the enclosed lineage which will enable you to complete your Table, I shall be well

[80] See Washington's letter to Hannah Fairfax Washington, Mar. 24, 1792, *ante*.

pleased in having been the mean to assist you in those researches which you have had the politeness to undertake, and shall be glad to be informed of the result, and of the ancient pedigree of the family, some of whom I find intermixed with the Ferrers &ca.

Lawrence Washington, from whose Will you enclose an abstract was my Grand father; the other abstracts (which you sent) do not, I believe, relate to the family of Washington in Virginia; but of this I cannot speak positively. With due consideration I am etc.

To LOUIS SIGEUR

Philadelphia, May 4, 1792.

Sir: I received with much satisfaction the information of your having made an acquisition in this Country,[81] and of your intentions to take up your residence among us. Your letter of the 30th. of September, giving me this information, did not get to my hands 'till some time in the last month.

The United States open, as it were, a new world to those who are disposed to retire from the noise and bustle of the old, and enjoy tranquility and security.

And we shall always consider men of your character as among our most valuable acquisitions.

Our connection with France, formed in a gloomy and distressful hour, must ever interest us in the happiness of that nation.

We have seen, with true commiseration, those outrages, inseparable from a Revolution, which have agitated the Kingdom, and we have not ceased our most fervent wishes that, their termination may be as happy as their progress has been distressing. With great esteem I am etc.[82]

[81] Sigeur had purchased from Robert Morris a place near Wilmington, Del.
[82] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To ANDREW HAMILTON[83]

Philadelphia, May 4, 1792.

Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your polite letter of the 12th. of December, together with a copy of "An Enquiry into the Principles of taxation," which accompanied it, and for which I must beg your acceptance of my best thanks.

The subject of your book is certainly of the first importance to society; and those who undertake works of this nature, upon the extensive scale that yours appears to be, are entitled to the thanks of the patriotic of every nation. In this country, where we are commencing a Government upon the experience of ages, it certainly behoves us to search into the "Principles of Taxation" and avoid as much as possible the errors of other nations on this very important head. We must therefore receive with peculiar satisfaction any lights on the subject.

Your philanthropic wish "to see the world at large encreasing in knowledge, prosperity and happiness," is no less pleasing to me as a Citizen of the World, than your expressions of personal respect are deserving the acknowledgments of Sir, Your etc.[84]

To WILLIAM MOULTRIE

Philadelphia, May 5, 1792.

Dear Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of last month, and the seeds you had the goodness to send me by Mr. Pinckney. The plants and trees which arrived at Norfolk have reached Mount Vernon in pretty good order. My thanks and acknowledgments are due to you, my dear Sir, for the kind

[83] Of Edinburgh, Scotland.

[84] From a photostat of the original in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge in the *Hamilton-Bruce Collection*, Register House, Edinburgh, through the courtesy of William Angus, Keeper of the Records of Scotland.

attention which you have paid to my wishes with respect to the seeds, plants &c. You must likewise accept of them for the detail which you have been so good as to give, of the mode of carrying on a war against the Indians; and the cloathing of the Troops to be employed in that service &c.

The first wish of the United States with respect to the Indians is, to be at peace with them all, and to cultivate a good understanding to our mutual benefit. As we have not been able to obtain this without the effusion of blood, the next wish is, to pursue such measures as may terminate the hostilities in the speediest manner, and most for the honor and interest of the U. S. Observations, therefore, which are founded in experience, tending to effect this, cannot but merit the thanks and acknowledgements of those who have the management of public affairs. I am much pleased to hear that the picture by Colo. Trumbull, gives so much satisfaction. The merit of this Artist cannot fail to give much pleasure to those of his Countrymen who possess a taste for the fine arts: and I know of no part of the U. S. where it would be put to a stronger test than in South Carolina. With sincere regard, and best wishes for your health etc.[85]

To JAMES MADISON

Saturday, May 5, 1792.

If Mr. Madison can make it convenient to call upon the P—— between eight and nine this forenoon and spend half an hour it would oblige me.

If inconvenient, then at Six in the Afternoon.[86]

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[85] In the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge. From a facsimile kindly furnished by the Moultrie Memorial Association, Charleston, S. C.

[86] From the printed text in the *Washington-Madison Papers* (McGuire Collection), sales catalogue, 1892.

To ROBERT SINCLAIR[87]

Philadelphia, May 6, 1792.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 12th. of december, in which you request information respecting Captain James Mackey, and likewise respecting the part of this country which would be the most elligible for forming an establishment as a farmer or planter.

The only information in my power to give you on the first head is, that my acquaintance with Capt. Mackay commenced in the army in the year 1754, when I commanded the troops which were sent to prevent the encroachments of the French upon the western boundaries of the then colonies. Captain Mackay then commanded an Independant Company either from Georgia or South-Carolina, and was captured with me by an army of french and Indians at a place called the great-meadows. In 1755 he left the service, sold out, and went to Georgia. I heard nothing of him from that time 'till about five or six years ago, when he went, by water, from Georgia to Rhode Island on account of his health. On his return to Georgia, by land, he was seized either by the complaint for which he had gone to Rhode Island, or by some other disorder, and died at Alexandria (not at my house as your letter mentions). I was not informed of his being at Alexandria until after his death, which was a circumstance that I regretted much, not only on account of the regard which I had for him from our former acquaintance, but because I understood that he was then on his way to pay me a visit, and had expressed an anxious desire to see me before he died. I do not know whether Captain Mackay left any family or not; for from the time of his quitting the Service,

[87] Of Scotland.

until his death, as I observed before, I knew nothing of him. I have, however, been informed that he was possessed of a handsome property in Georgia.

On the second head of your enquiry, I can hardly venture to give you an opinion. I do not, however, imagine that an establishment on the banks of the Mississippi would at this time be a very desirable one, and even the western parts of the U. States lying on the waters running into the Mississippi (which is perhaps as fertile a country as any in the world) are now disturbed by the hostilities of some of the Indian tribes bordering upon them, and from that cause are at *this moment* unfriendly to new settlements. This evil will, however, I trust, be shortly removed, and Settlers sit down there in safety.

I can observe generally that the United States, from their extent, offer a variety of climate, soil and situations that no Country in Europe can afford, and that in cheapness of land and in the blessings of civil and religious liberty, they stand perhaps unrivalled by any civilized nation on earth. To a person who intends to pursue the farming or planting business, and is possessed of the Capital which you mention, I should think some one of the middle states, from New-york to Virginia, both inclusive, would hold out the best advantages, they are free from the inconveniences peculiar to either extreme, and unite most of the advantages of both, they afford to the farmer a ready market for his produce, the country is intersected by large and numerous Rivers, and the spirit which now prevails for improving inland navigation promises to secure a cheap and easy transportation from the most interior parts of the Country to the shipping ports.

Your idea of bringing over Highlander's appears to be a good one. They are a hardy industrious people, well calculated to form new settlements, and will in time become valuable citizens.

Before I close this subject I would observe, that many persons in Europe who have purchased land in this country for the purpose of settling upon it themselves, have, on their arrival, after examining their purchase, been disappointed in their expectations respecting it. Exaggerations, if not misrepresentations are apt to be made of objects at so great a distance, and those who have lands for sale will naturally give them a gloss which perhaps a purchaser would hardly fine.

It would therefore be much more satisfactory to the purchaser, and far more creditable to the Country, if those persons who wish to purchase land here, and become settlers upon it themselves, would come into the country and purchase upon the spot; they would then suit their taste in point of situation, have a variety to chuse from and see and learn with truth all the circumstances necessary for them to know, to become Settlers.

When this method is pursued, I am persuaded that every one who comes over with a view to establish himself here may do it much to his satisfaction, and if he has with him the means of purchasing, it can certainly be done on much better terms than it could be through an Agent. I am etc.[88]

To THOMAS PAINE

Philadelphia, May 6, 1792.

Dear Sir: To my friends, and those who know my occupations, I am sure no apology is necessary for keeping their letters so much longer unanswered, than my inclination would lead me to do. I shall therefore offer no excuse for not having sooner acknowledged the receipt of your letter of the 21st. of July. My thanks, however, for the token of your remembrance, in the 50 copies of "Rights of Man," are offered with no less

[88] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

cordiality, than they would have been, had I answered your letter in the first moment of receiving it.[89]

The duties of my Office, which at all times, especially during the Session of Congress, require an unremitting attention, naturally become more pressing towards the close of it; and as that body have resolved to rise to-morrow, and as I have determined, in case they should, to set out for Mount Vernon on the next day, you will readily conclude that the present is a busy moment with me; and to that I am persuaded your goodness will impute my not entering into the several points touched upon in your letter. Let it suffice, therefore, at this time, to say, that I rejoice in the information of your personal prosperity; and as no one can feel a greater interest in the happiness of mankind than I do, that it is the first wish of my heart, that the enlightened policy of the present age may diffuse to all men those blessings, to which they are entitled, and lay the foundation of happiness for future generations. With great esteem etc.

P. S. Since writing the foregoing, I have received your letter of the 13th. of February, with the twelve copies of your new work, which accompanied it, and for which you must accept my additional thanks.[90]

To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD

Philadelphia, May 6, 1792.

Dear Sir: I made Mr. Morris acquainted with the contents of your letter of the 14th. of March, relative to your Son; and am informed by him, that if your son should be in Philadelphia,

[89] Paine printed 16,000 copies of *The Rights of Man* and, at the time of his letter, July 21, 1791, all but three or four thousand had been distributed. He stated that "when the whole are gone, . . . I shall then make a cheap edition, just sufficient to bring in the price of the printing and paper, as I did by Common Sense." Paine's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[90] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. A hasty copy by Jefferson is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

agreeably to your intention of sending him here, as mentioned in your letter, there is no doubt but many opportunities may occur of his making a voyage previous to the return of Captain Truxton from the East-Indies, which is expected to be sometime next Spring, or Summer; but Mr. Morris observes, that it is impossible, for him now to point the particular voyage or vessel in which he may be employed. When he is on the spot, opportunities of employment in his line will not be wanting, he thinks, if the skill, character and appearance of the applicant are approved. With great esteem etc.[91]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

City of Philadelphia, May 7, 1792.

For carrying into execution the provisions in that behalf made by the Act intitled "An Act for raising a farther sum of money for the protection of the Frontiers, and for other purposes therein mentioned," I do hereby authorise you the said Secretary of the Treasury to agree and contract with the President Directors and Company of the Bank of the United States; with any other body politic or corporate within the United States, or with any other person or persons, for a loan or loans to the United States of any sum or sums not exceeding in the whole Five hundred and twenty three thousand five hundred Dollars to be advanced and paid in such proportions and at such periods as you shall judge necessary for fulfilling the purposes of the said Act. Provided that the rate of interest of such loan or loans shall not exceed five per centum per annum, and that the principal thereof may be reimbursed at the pleasure of the United States. And I hereby promise to ratify what you shall lawfully do in the premises.[91]

[91] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To REVEREND WILLIAM SMITH[92]

Philadelphia, May 8, 1792.

Sir: I learn with much satisfaction from your letter of the 28th. of April, that you propose to undertake a history of the American revolution, and shall with pleasure procure you any aids I can towards the faithful execution of the work.

I will, therefore, desire the heads of the executive departments to communicate to you such papers of useful information in their respective offices as they, in their discretion, shall think may be communicated with propriety. I am etc.[93]

To THE SENATE

United States, May 8, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate: If the President of the United States should conclude a Convention or Treaty with the Government of Algiers for the ransom of the thirteen Americans in Captivity there, for a sum not exceeding 40,000 dollars, all expenses included, will the Senate approve the same? Or is there any, and what greater or lesser sum, which they would fix on as the limit beyond which they would not approve the Ransom?[94]

If the President of the United States should conclude a treaty with the Government of Algiers for the establishment of peace with them at an expense not exceeding twenty five thousand dollars paid at the signature, and a like sum to be paid annually afterwards during the continuance of the treaty would the Senate approve the same? Or, are there any greater or lesser sums

[92] Formerly provost of the College of Philadelphia, Pa.

[93] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[94] On April 1 Jefferson had submitted to Washington "Considerations on the subjects of ransom and peace with the Algerines," a press copy of which is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

which they would fix on as the limits beyond which they would not approve of such treaty?[95]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

City of Philadelphia, May 9, 1792.

For carrying into execution the provisions of the Eleventh section of the Act intitled "An Act to incorporate the subscribers to the Bank of the United States," I do hereby authorise you the said Secretary of the Treasury to subscribe by one or more subscriptions, on behalf and in the name of the United States, for such number of shares of and in the capital stock of the said Corporation as together shall amount to two Millions of Dollars, and the same to pay for out of any monies which shall have been or shall be borrowed by virtue of either of the Acts, the one intitled; "An Act making provisions for the Debt of the United States," and the other intitled, "An Act making provision for the reduction of the public Debt": And I do further authorise you to borrow of the said Corporation for and on account of the United States an equal sum, namely, Two Millions of Dollars to be applied to the purposes for which the said monies shall have been procured, and to be reimbursable in Ten years by equal annual installments, or at any time sooner or in any greater proportions that the Government may think fit.[96] Provided that the interest on the said sum so by you to be borrowed, shall not exceed the rate of six per centum per annum; hereby empowering you to enter into and conclude with the said Corporation such contracts and Agreements as shall be necessary for fulfilling the purposes aforesaid, and promising to ratify whatever you shall lawfully do in the premises.[95]

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[95] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[96] The agreement between the Secretary of the Treasury and the president and directors of the Bank of the United States was approved by Washington, June 1.

*To GIUSEPPE CERACCHI

Philadelphia, May 10, 1792.

The President of the United States presents his Compliments to Mr. Ciracchi and with many thanks for his offer of the very elegant figures sent him, begs leave to restore them again to Mr. Ciracchi. His situation calling for uniformity of conduct in these cases, he relies that Mr. Ciracchi will ascribe it in the presence instance to its true motives, and accept the assurances the President now gives of the high sense he entertains of his talents and merit. [HV.L.]

To CHARLES CARTER

Mount Vernon, May 19, 1792.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 30th. ultimo was on its way to Philadelphia whilst I was on my journey to this place;[97] owing to which I did not receive it until it reverberated; this must be my apology for not giving the receipt of it an earleir acknowledgment.

It would give me pleasure to receive your Son into my family, if it could be made tolerably convenient to me; or if any advantage was likely to result from it to the young Gentleman himself. I was in no *real* want even of Howell Lewis, but understanding that he was spending his time rather idly, and at the same time very slenderly provided for by his father, I thought for the few months which remained to be accomplished of my own servitude, by taking him under my care, I might impress him with ideas, and give him a turn to some pursuit or other that might be serviceable to him hereafter; but what that will be I am at present as much at a loss to decide as you would be; for as the heads of the different departments have by law the

[97] Washington had left Philadelphia May 10 for Mount Vernon.

appointment of their own Clerks; are responsible for the conduct of them; are surrounded always with applicants, and, I presume, have their own inclinations and friends to gratify. I never have, in a single instance, and I am pretty sure I shall not now begin, recommending any one to either of them.

My family, now Howell is admitted into it, will be *more* than full, and in truth *more* than is convenient for the House, as Mr. Dandridge (a Nephew of Mrs. Washington's) is already one of it, and but one room for him, Howell and another person to sleep in, all the others being appropriated to public or private uses.

If your Son Charles is of age, and it should be yours and his own inclination to pursue a military course, I would, if any vacancy should happen (at present there is none) in one of the Regiments endeavor to place him therein. You will perceive I have made age the condition; the reason is, it is established as a rule in the War Office to appoint none knowingly, that are under it. My best respects to Mrs. Carter. I am &c.[98]

To HANNAH FAIRFAX WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, May 20, 1792.

Dear Madam: To the variety and importance of public business which presses upon me towards the close of the Session of Congress, and which leaves not a moment to attend to my private concerns, you will have the goodness to impute this late acknowledgment of the receipt of your obliging favor of the 9th. of April.

Permit me now, my dear Madam, to offer my best thanks for your kind attention to the request contained in my former

[98] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

letter, and for the information which you have been so good as to furnish me with relative to the genealogy of the family of Washington.

I return herewith the Will of Lawrence Washington agreeably to your desire.

Mrs. Washington received with much pleasure your kind remembrance and affectionate regards, and would, were she here, where I am come for a few days only, return the same with much sincerity to which permit me to add the best wishes and ardent prayers for your happiness. I am etc.[99]

*To JAMES MADISON

Mount Vernon, May 20, 1792.

My dear Sir: As there is a possibility if not a probability, that I shall not see you on your return home; or, if I should see you, that it may be on the road and under circumstances which will prevent my speaking to you on the subject we last conversed upon; I take the liberty of committing to paper the following thoughts, and requests.

I have not been unmindful of the sentiments expressed by you in the conversations just alluded to:[1] on the contrary I have again, and again revolved them, with thoughtful anxiety; but without being able to dispose my mind to a longer continuation in the Office I have now the honor to hold. I therefore still look forward to the fulfilment of my fondest and most ardent wishes to spend the remainder of my days (which I can not expect will be many) in ease and tranquility.

[99] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[1] Madison's notes of these conversations, May 5 and 9, are in the *Madison Papers* in the Library of Congress. They are printed in Victor Hugo Paltsits's *Washington's Farewell Address* (New York Public Library: 1935).

Nothing short of conviction that my deriliction of the Chair of Government (if it should be the desire of the people to continue me in it) would involve the Country in serious disputes respecting the chief Magestrate, and the disagreeable consequences which might result therefrom in the floating, and divided opinions which seem to prevail at present, could, in any wise, induce me to relinquish the determination I have formed: and of this I do not see how any evidence can be obtained previous to the Election. My vanity, I am sure, is not of that cast as to allow me to view the subject in this light.

Under these impressions then, permit me to reiterate the request I made to you at our last meeting, namely, to think of the proper time, and the best mode of anouncing the intention; and that you would prepare the latter. In revolving this subject myself, my judgment has always been embarrassed. On the one hand, a previous declaration to retire, not only carries with it the appearance of vanity and self importance, but it may be construed into a manœuvre to be invited to remain. And on the other hand, to say nothing, implys consent; or, at any rate, would leave the matter in doubt, and to decline afterwards might be deemed as bad, and uncandid.

I would fain carry my request to you farther than is asked above, although I am sensible that your compliance with it must add to your trouble; but as the recess may afford you leizure, and I flatter myself you have dispositions to oblige me, I will, without apology desire (if the measure in itself should strike you as proper, and likely to produce public good, or private honor) that you would turn your thoughts to a Valadictory address from me to the public; expressing in plain and modest terms: that having been honored with the Presidential Chair, and to the best of my abilities contributed to the Organ-

ization and Administration of the government. that having arrived at a period of life when the private Walks of it, in the shade of retirement, becomes necessary, and will be most pleasing to me; and the spirit of the government may render a rotation in the Elective Officers of it more congenial with their ideas of liberty and safety, that I take my leave of them as a public man; and in bidding them adieu (retaining no other concern than such as will arise from fervent wishes for the prosperity of my Country) I take the liberty at my departure from civil, as I formerly did at my military exit,[2] to invoke a continuation of the blessings of Providence upon it; and upon all those who are the supporters of its interests, and the promoters of harmony, order and good government.

That to impress these things it might, among other things be observed, that we are *all* the Children of the same country; a Country great and rich in itself; capable, and promising to be, as prosperous and as happy as any the Annals of history have ever brought to our view. That our interest, however, deversified in local and smaller matters, is the same in all the great and essential concerns of the Nation. That the extent of our Country, the diversity of our climate and soil, and the various productions of the States consequent to both, are such as to make one part not only convenient, but perhaps indispensably necessary to the other part; and may render the whole (at no distant period) one of the most independant in the world. That the established government being the work of our own hands, with the seeds of amendment engrafted in the Constitution, may by wisdom, good dispositions, and mutual allowances; aided by experience, bring it as near to perfection as any human institution ever aproximated; and therefore,

[2] See Circular to the States, June 8, 1783, *ante*.

the only strife among us ought to be, who should be foremost in facilitating and finally accomplishing such great and desirable objects; by giving every possible support, and cement to the Union. That however necessary it may be to keep a watchful eye over public servants, and public measures, yet there ought to be limits to it; for suspicions unfounded, and jealousies too lively, are irritating to honest feelings; and oftentimes are productive of more evil than good.

To enumerate the various subjects which might be introduced into such an Address would require thought; and to mention them to you would be unnecessary, as your own judgment will comprehend *all* that will be proper; whether to touch, specifically, any of the exceptionable parts of the Constitu[t]ion may be doubted. All I shall add therefore at present, is, to beg the favor of you to consider: 1st. the propriety of such an Address. 2d. if approved, the several matters which ought to be contained in it; and 3d. the time it should appear: that is, whether at the declaration of my intention to withdraw from the service of the public; or to let it be the closing Act of my Administration; which, will end with the next Session of Congress (the probability being that that body will continue sitting until March,) when the House of Representatives will also dissolve.

'Though I do not wish to hurry you (the cases not pressing) in the execution of either of the publications beforementioned, yet I should be glad to hear from you generally on both; and to receive them in time, if you should not come to Philadelphia until the Session commences, in the form they are finally to take. I beg leave to draw your attention also to such things as you shall conceive fit subjects for Communication on that occasion; and, noting them as they occur, that you would be so good as to furnish me with them in time to be prepared, and

engrafted with others for the opening of the Session. With very sincere and Affectionate regard etc.[3] [M. L.]

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, May 21, 1792.

Dear Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 16th. inst. I sincerely hope that the intelligence which has been communicated to you of a War between France and Spain being inevitable, is not founded in truth.

It is my intention to commence my Journey to Philadelphia on Thursday next. I shall stop in George Town one day, and proceed on from thence without further delay, unless my horses should require rest, some of which got foundered and lame on the journey to this place. With very sincere regard, I am etc.[4]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, May 21, 1792.

Dear Sir: I have received your letters of the 12th and 15th insts. with their enclosures.

From the tenor of Mr. Seagrove's[5] letter I am in hopes that the business of running the line &c. will be amicably accomplished, notwithstanding the unfavorable circumstances which have occurred. When I passed through George Town, Mr. Ellicot[6] informed me, that a letter from his brother,[7] dated at the Rock Landing, the 19th of April, gave unfavourable intelligence

[3] The autograph draft of this letter, with many interlineations, is in the New York Public Library. It is printed *verbatim ad literatim* by Paltsits in his *Washington's Farewell Address;* also in Jefferson's *Anas,* July 10, 1792, in the *Writings of Jefferson* (P. L. Ford, editor, Federal edition, 1904), vol. 1, p. 227.

[4] In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[5] James Seagrove.

[6] Andrew Ellicott.

[7] Joseph Ellicott.

of the business; that two Indians having been detected in stealing horses at Green Court-House, one was killed, and the other so severely whipped as to have died in consequence of it; that a party of the Cowettas (to whose tribe these Indians belonged) had taken revenge by killing two white men; that the Chiefs of the Nation had sent Orders to the Rock landing for such of the Indians as might have assembled there to return home, and that a party which had arrived at that place had actually gone back, and further observed, that from the appearance of things he did not believe the line would be run.[8]

The letter from Mr. Seagrove being dated two days after that from Ellicott and giving a more favorable complexion to the matter than his, I am in hopes that our affairs in that quarter will yet come to an amicable and mutually agreeable conclusion.

I am pleased with the intelligence contained in your letter of the 15th with respect to the information received from Governor Blount[9] and from Major Hamtramck.[10] I trust that the arrival of the Bloody fellow, and other Cherokees in their nation will have been attended with good effects towards the interest of the United States.

I most sincerely hope that the communications from Major Hamtramck may be a prelude to a general peace with the hostile Indians, and I cannot help thinking that it carries with it that appearance.

I intend setting out for Philadelphia on Thursday next; shall stop one day in George Town, and proceed on from thence as expeditiously as my horses (some of which got foundered and lame on the journey to this place and have not yet recovered) will permit me to do. With sincere regard etc.[11]

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[8] The line between Georgia and the Creek country.

[9] Gov. William Blount, of the Territory of Tennessee. He was also, at the same time, superintendent of the affairs of the southern Indians.

[10] Maj. John Francis Hamtramck of the First U. S. Infantry.

[11] From a copy by Tobias Lear.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

June 2, 1792.

I wish more favorable explanations than I expect, from your interview[12] with the British Minister.[13]

To GOVERNOR GENERAL BRETAGNE[14]

Philadelphia, June 3, 1792.

Sir: I have received the duplicate of the polite letter which you did me the honor of writing to me on the 28th. of may 1791. The first has not reached my hands.

The obliging manner in which you express your wishes to prove the sincerity of your attachment to the United States by keeping up and encouraging the treaty of amity which unites France and America, merits the acknowledgments of the good citizens of this Country, as well as the protection which you mention to have given to the American Vessels on the coast of the Isle of Belle Isle, where you commanded in the late war.

The Constitution of the Society of the Cincinnati does not permit the President to decide on the qualifications for admission into that Society. He can only grant diplomas to such as may have been admitted in conformity to the general Institution. And in order to be better informed of the pretensions of foreign Officers for admission, power was given to Count de Rochambeau, the Marquis de la Fayette and the Count d'Estaing to admit such as should appear to have well-grounded

[12] The interview with Hammond on the fulfillment of the terms of the treaty of peace with Great Britain, 1783, took place June 3. Jefferson's record of "Notes of a conversation with Mr. Hammond" is in the *Jefferson Papers*. They are printed with the *Anas* in the *Writings of Jefferson* (P. L. Ford, editor, Federal edition: 1904), vol. 1, p. 227.

[13] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[14] Of the French Windward Islands.

pretensions, to wear the Insignia of the Order; and the Certificate of those Gentlemen being transmitted to the Secretary of the Society (which office is now filled by General Knox) will entitle the person to whom it is granted to a Diploma.

With sentiments of due consideration I have the honor etc.

[H.S.P.]

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, June 8, 1792.

Gentlemen: The Bearer of this, Mr. James Hoben,[15] was strongly recommended to me by Colo. Laurens, and several other gentlemen of South-Carolina when I was there last year, as a person who had made architecture his study, and was well qualified, not only for planning or designing buildings, but to superintend the execution of them. He informs me that he intends to produce plans of the two buildings next month, agreeably to the advertisement of the Commissioners, and is now on his way to view the ground on which they are to stand. I have given him this letter of introduction, in order that he might have an opportunity of communicating his views and wishes to you, or of obtaining any information necessary for completing the plans. But, as I have no knowledge of the man or his talents, further than the information which I received from the Gentlemen in Carolina, you must consider this letter merely as a line of introduction, for the purposes mentioned. With esteem etc.[16]

On June 6 Washington signed form letters to the King and Queen of Great Britain (George III and Charlotte Sophia, of Mecklenburg-Strelitz), announcing the appointment of Thomas Pinckney as Minister to Great Britain. Drafts of these forms by Thomas Jefferson are in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[15] Hoban. His plans for the President's house were judged the best and he chose the gold medal offered in the "Premium" advertisement. (See Approval of a Competition, Mar. 6, 1792, *ante*.)

[16] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Philadelphia, June 10, 1792.

My dear Sir: In the revolution of a great Nation we must not be surprized at the vicissitudes to which individuals are liable; and the changes they experience will always be in proportion to the weight of their public character; I was therefore not surprised, my dear Sir, at receiving your letter dated at Metz which you had the goodness to write me on the 22d of January. That personal ease and private enjoyment is not your primary object I well know, and until peace and tranquillity are restored to your Country upon permanent and honorable grounds I was fully persuaded, in my own mind, that you could not be permitted long to enjoy that domestic retirement, into which you had fondly entered.

Since the commencement of your revolution our attention has been drawn, with no small anxiety, almost to France alone; but at this moment Europe in general seems pregnant with great events, and to whatever nation we turn our eyes there appears to be more or less cause to believe, that an important change will take place at no very distant period. Those philanthropic spirits who regard the happiness of mankind are now watching the progress of things with the greatest solicitude, and consider the event of the present crisis as fixing the fate of man. How great! How important, therefore, is the part, which the actors in this momentous scene have to perform! Not only the fate of millions of the present day depends upon them, but the happiness of posterity is involved in their decisions.

You who are on the spot cannot, I presume, determine when or where these great beginnings will terminate, and for us, at this distance to pretend to give an opinion to that effect would

at least be deemed presumptuous. We are however, anxious that the horrors of war may be avoided, if possible, and the rights of man so well understood and so permanently fixed, as while despotic oppression is avoided on the one hand, licentiousness may not be substituted for liberty nor confusion take place of order on the other. The just medium cannot be expected to be found in a moment, the first vibrations always go to the extremes, and cool reason, which can alone establish a permanent and equal government, is as little to be expected in the tumults of popular commotion, as an attention to the liberties of the people is to be found in the dark Divan of a despotic tyrant.

I assure you, my dear Sir, I have not been a little anxious for your personal safety, and I have yet no grounds for removing that anxiety; but I have the consolation of believing that, if you should fall it will be in defence of that cause which your heart tells you is just. And to the care of that Providence, whose interposition and protection we have so often experienced, do I chearfully commit you and your nation, trusting that he will bring order out of confusion, and finally place things upon the ground on which they ought to stand.

The affairs of the United States still go on in a prosperous train. We encrease daily in numbers and riches, and the people are blessed with the enjoyment of those rights which can alone give security and happiness to a Nation. The War with the Indians on our western frontier will, I hope, be terminated in the course of the present season without further effusion of blood; but, in case the measures taken to promote a pacification should fail, such steps are pursued as must, I think, render the issue by the sword very unfavorable to them.

Soon after the rising of Congress I made a journey to Mount Vernon, from whence I returned but a few days ago, and

expect, (if nothing of a public nature should occur to detain me here) to go there again some time next month with Mrs. Washington and her two little grand children, where we shall continue 'till near the next meeting of Congress.

Your friends in this Country are interested in your welfare, and frequently enquire about you with an anxiety that bespeaks a warm affection. I am afraid my Nephew George, your old Aid, will never have his health perfectly re-established, he has lately been attacked with the alarming symptom of spitting large quantities of blood, and the Physicians give no hopes of a restoration unless it can be effected by a change of air, and a total dereliction of business, to which he is too anxiously attentive. [He will, if he should be taken from his family and friends leave three fine childn. viz. two Sons and a daughter, the eldest of the boys he has given the name of Fayette to and a fine looking child he is.]

Hamilton Knox Jay and Jefferson are well and remember you with affection. Mrs. Washington desires to be presented to you in terms of friendship and warm regard, to which I add my most affectionate wishes and sincere prayers for your health and happiness, and request you to make the same acceptable to Madm. le Fayette and your children. [I am &c.][17]

To THOMAS BARCLAY

Philadelphia, June 11, 1792.

Sir: Congress having furnished me with means for procuring peace, and ransoming our captive citizens from the government of Algiers, I have thought it best, while you are engaged at Morocco, to appoint Admiral Jones to proceed to Algiers, and

[17] The draft is by Tobias Lear. The words in brackets are in the writing of *Washington.*

therefore have sent him a commission for establishing peace, another for the ransom of our captives, and a third to act there as Consul for the U. S. and full instructions are given in a letter from the Secretary of state to him, of all which papers, Mr. Pinkney now proceeding to London as our Minister Plenipotentiary there, is the bearer, as he is also of this letter, it is sometime however since we have heard of Admiral Jones, and as, in the event of any accident to him, it might occasion an injurious delay,[18] were the business to await new commissions from hence, I have thought it best, in such an event, that Mr. Pinkney should forward to you all the papers addressed to Admiral Jones, with this letter, signed by myself, giving you authority on receipt of those papers to consider them as addressed to you, and to proceed under them in every respect as if your name stood in each of them in the place of that of John Paul Jones. You will of course finish the business of your mission to Morocco with all the dispatch practicable, and then proceed to Algiers on that hereby confided to you, where this letter with the commissions addressed to Admiral Jones, and an explanation of circumstances, will doubtless procure you credit as acting in the name and on the behalf of the United States, and more especially when you shall efficaciously prove your authority by the fact of making, on the spot, the payments you shall stipulate. With full confidence in the prudence and integrity with which you will fulfill the objects of the present mission, I give to this letter the effect of a commission and full powers, by hereto subscribing my name this eleventh day of June one thousand seven hundred and ninety two.[19]

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[18] Jones died in Paris, July 18, 1792, before the commission and letter reached him. A draft of this commission in Jefferson's writing is filed in the *Jefferson Papers* at the end of June, 1792.

[19] From a press copy in the writing of Thomas Jefferson in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Friday, June 15, 1792.

Dear Sir: When Artizans are imported, and criticism is at Work, the inducement is greater to obtain those who are *really* skilful: for this reason, if Mr. Pinckney should not readily meet with those who are unequivocally such; or, if there is a chance of getting better in France than in England, I think it would be well to instruct him to corrispond with Mr. Morris on this Subject with view to obtain the best. I should be mortified to import men not more understanding in the business of Assaying, Engraving and Coining than those who are already among us. Yours etc.[20]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

June 17, 1792.

Dear Sir: The Attorney General will, I presume, draw the Deed for the Lot for the Mint.[21] The purchase of it, I approve of.

If you can aid me in answering the queries of Mr. Young,[22] contained in his letter enclosed,[23] I would thank you. I wish to write to him by Mr. Pinckney.

Is not fish Oil one of the things that will claim the particular attention of Mr. Morris?[24] Yours etc.[20]

*To THE EARL OF BUCHAN

Philadelphia, June 20, 1792.

My Lord: I presume you will, long before this reaches you, have received my letter of the first of May, in answer to the

[20] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[21] In Philadelphia, Pa.
[22] Arthur Young.
[23] Young's letter of January 18 is in the *Washington Papers*. Washington replied June 18–21, *q. v.*
[24] Gouverneur Morris.

honor of your Lordships favor of the 28th. of June, by Mr. Robinson.[25] In that letter, I have stated, that the reason of my having so long delayed acknowledging the receipt of it, was a wish that the portrait, which you were pleased to request, should accompany the letter.

It was not till the 10th. instant that I had the honor to receive your Lordships second favor of the 15th. of September which was enclosed in a letter from Doctr. James Anderson, and accompanied with *six* volumes of the Bee. These were forwarded by a Bookseller at New York, who mentions his having received directions from Doctr. Anderson to transmit them to me. I must therefore beg your Lordships acceptance of my warmest thanks for this additional testimony of your politeness. Considering myself as a subscriber to the *Bee* I have written to Doctor Anderson to know in what manner I shall pay the money,[26] that it may get regularly to his hands.

With sincere prayers for the health and happiness of your Lordship; and gratefully impressed with the many marks of attention which I have received from you. I have the honor etc.[27]

To CAPTAIN THOMAS FORREST[28]

Philadelphia, June 20, 1792.

Sir: The publication which you had the politeness to send me last fall, entitled "Proceedings relative to Ships tendered for the service of the united East India Company," reached my hands some time in April; and lately I have been favored with your voyage from Calcutta &c.

[25] Archibald Robertson.

[26] Buchan has indorsed this letter with a statement that Washington had inclosed five guineas as his subscription to the *Bee*.

[27] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

[28] Of London.

These marks of attention are received, with gratitude, and merit my best thanks, which I beg you to accept for your very great politeness. I am etc.[29]

To DOCTOR JAMES ANDERSON

Philadelphia, June 20, 1792.[30]

Sir: I had the pleasure a few days ago to receive your letter of the 28th. of September, enclosing a letter from the Earl of Buchan, and accompanied with some Seeds of the Swedish Turnip or *Ruta Baga.* At the same time I received from Mr. Campbell,[31] a Bookseller in New York *Six* volumes of the Bee,[32] which he informed me were transmitted by your directions. In your letter you mention'd having sent the *four* first volumes of the Bee, and the Earl mentions in his that he has sent me a sett. I therefore concluded, that the six volumes which I have received are those mentioned by his Lordship; and especially as the pamphlet on wool, by Sir John Sinclair, which you observed in your letter accompanied the Books which you sent was not with those which I received. I mention these circumstances in order that, if there is any mistake in the transmission of the books, it may be set right.

I feel no less grateful, Sir, for your polite attention, whether the books which I have received be those sent by yourself or by the Earl. I must beg your acceptance of my best thanks for the Swedish Turnip seed, and the particular account which you were so good as to give me respecting it. As I have spent great part of my life (and that not the least pleasing) in rural affairs, I am always obliged by receiving such communications or

[29] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*
[30] Sparks and Ford print this letter as of June 26.
[31] Samuel Campbell.
[32] An Edinburgh periodical devoted to agriculture, politics, and miscellany.

novelties in that way, as may tend to promote the system of husbandry in this Country.

When you first determined upon publishing the Bee, the Earl of Buchan had the goodness to transmit to me the plan of the work, with which I was much pleased, and from the answer which I then gave to his Lordship's letter, I have considered myself as a subscriber to the publication, and must beg to be informed to whom, or in what manner I shall cause payment to be made for it.

I have not yet had it in my power to peruse those volumes of the Bee, wch. I have received, but I promise myself much entertainment and information from them; for the extensive and liberal ground upon which you appear to have undertaken the work, must make it interesting to the good Citizens of every Country, and for your complete success in it you have my best wishes. I am &c.[33]

*To RICHARD PETERS

Philadelphia, June 20, 1792.

Dear Sir: Excuse my giving you the perusal of a letter that is tinctured with compliment. Pass these over, and solve the queries and doubts of the author; and you will much oblige. Yr. Obedt. etc.[34] [H. S. P.]

*To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

(Private)

Philadelphia, June 21, 1792.

My dear sir: Since writing to you on the 28th. of January I have received your several favors of the 27th. of Decr. from

[33] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[34] The following note by Washington appears on the address sheet: "Expecting Mr. Peters might be in Town, this letter was sent to Colo. Johnston's; not finding him there, and the Ship by which P—— means to write to Mr. Y—— on the point of Sailing (say saturday) he sends it to him in the Country."

Paris; 4th. of February, 17th. and 21st. of March, and 6th. and 10th. of April from London. I thank you very much for the interesting, and important information contained in several of these letters particularly that of the 4th. of February. If the last article, of which it is comprised, should in your judgment, require an acknowledgment I shall rely on your goodness to make it in suitable and respectful terms. You can be at no loss to discover the paragraph to which I allude.[35]

The plot thickens, and development must have begun; but what the final issue will be, lyes too deep for human ken. I will hope for the best, without allowing myself to wander in the field of conjecture for the result. Your letters, though extremely interesting in point of information, require but little to be said in the way of reply. The accts. given therein will be treasured up, to be acted upon as circumstances will warrant, and as occasions may present. One thing however I must not pass over in silence, lest you should infer from it that Mr. D——[36] had authority for reporting that the United States had asked the mediation of G: Britain to bring about a peace between them and the Indians. You may be *fully* assured, Sir, that such mediation *never* was asked; that the asking of it *never* was in contemplation, and, I think I might go further and say, that it not only never *will* be asked but would be rejected if offered. The United States will never have occasion, I hope, to ask for the

[35] The French revolutionists were said to have set on foot a scheme for an alliance with Great Britain. "You may judge from hence," wrote Morris, "how much Dependence is to be placed on these newfangled Statesmen. The King and Queen are wounded to the Soul by these rash Measures. They have I believe given all needful Assurances to The Emperor and King of Spain: a confidential Person has desired me to assure *you* on their Behalf that they are very far from wishing to change the System of French Politics and abandon their old Allies, and therefore if any advantage is taken of the present Advances to Britain that you will consider them as originating merely in the madness of the Moment, and not as proceeding from *them* or as meeting with *their* approbation, *but the contrary.*" Morris's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

[36] Henry Dundas. He was home secretary of Great Britain.

interposition of that power or any other, to establish peace within their own territory.

That it is the wish of that Government to intermeddle and bring this measure to pass, many concurrent circumstances, (small indeed when singly considered), had left no doubt on my mind before your letter of the 6th. of April came to hand. What is there mentioned of the views of Mr. P——[37] as well as of the assertions of Mr. D—— is strong as "proof of holy writ" in confirmation of it. The attempt has, however, in its remotest movements, been so scouted as to have retarded, if it has not entirely done away the idea; but I do not hesitate to give it to you my *private* and decided opinion, that it is to these interferences, and to the underhanded support which the Indians receive (notwithstanding the open disavowal of it) that all our difficulties with them proceed. We are essaying every means, in our power, to undeceive these hostile tribes with respect to the disposition of this Country towards them; and to convince them that we neither seek their extirpation nor the occupancy of their Lands (as they are taught to believe) except such of the latter as has been obtained by fair treaty, and purchase bona fide made, and recognized by them in more instances than one. If they will not after this explanation (if we can get at them to make it) listen to the voice of peace, the sword must decide the dispute; and we are, though very reluctantly, vigorously preparing to meet the event.

In the course of last winter I had some of the chiefs of the Cherokees in this City, and in the Spring I obtained (with some difficulty indeed) a full representation of the Six nations, to come hither. I have sent all of them away well satisfied; and fully convinced of the justice and good dispositions of this government towards the Indian Nations, *generally*. the latter, that

[37] William Pitt.

is the Six Nations, who before, appeared to be divided, and distracted in their Councils, have given strong assurances of their friendship; and have resolved to send a deputation of *their* tribes to the hostile Indians with an Acct. of all that has passed; accompanying it with advice to them, to desist from further hostilities. With difficulty *still* greater, I have brought the celebrated Captn. Joseph Brant to this City, with a view to impress him also with the equitable intentions of this government towards *all* the Nations of his colour. He only arrived last night, and I am to give him an Audience at twelve this day.

Nothing has, as yet, been hinted on this side of the water, to any of the Officers of Government, of the other matter mentioned in your letter of the 6th. of April; though suspicions of it have been entertained.[38]

Knowing from the letters of the Secretary of State to you, that you are advised in all matters of public concern, and will have transmitted to you the Laws as they are enacted, and the Gazettes as they are published, I shall not trouble you with a detail of domestic occurrences. The latter are *sur*charged, and *some of them* indecently communicative of *charges* that stand in need of evidence for their support.

There can be but few things of a public nature (likely to fall in your line, requiring to be acted upon by this government) that may not be freely communicated to the Department to which it belongs; because, in proceedings thereon, the head of the department[39] will, necessarily be made acquainted therewith. But there may nevertheless be other matters, more remote in their consequences, of the utmost importance to be known that

[38] Morris had written: "Those who conceive the french Jacobins to be at the Bottom of a great King-Killing Project . . . infer that the King of Prussia should take care of himself and be cautious of his Cooks and Companions." Morris's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

[39] Government.

not more than one intermediate person would be entrusted with; *here,* necessity as well as propriety, will confine you to a point. Cases, *not altogether* under the controul of necessity, may also arise to render it advisable to do this and your own good judgment will be the best direction in these. With much truth and Affection, I am, &c.

*To ARTHUR YOUNG

Philadelphia, June 18 [–21], 1792.

Sir: Your letter of the 18th. of Jany. was received about a fortnight ago. For the Annals which you have had the goodness to send me, I pray you to accept my thanks. No directions having accompanied the second sett, and presuming they were intended for the Agricultural Society in this City, I have, in your name, presented them to that body.

As far as it is in my power, I will endeavour to solve the doubts which are expressed in your queries, contained in the above letter. and first. "Labour is so slightly touched on, that I know not how to estimate it."

The information on this, as well as on other points of my last communication, was given in transcripts of the letters I have received in answer to certain queries, hastily submitted, to some intelligent Gentlemen of my acquaintance, in the States of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. If therefore the article of labour was not sufficiently enlarged upon, or, if there appeared too great a diversity in the price of this article, in that of land, and of other things, to be easily reconciled and understood; you must ascribe the inconsistency, or omission, to that cause; and to the habits, and value which is set on these things in the different States, and even in different parts of the same State.

South of Pennsylvania, hired labor is not very common, except it be at harvest, and sometimes for cutting grass. The wealthier farmers perform it with their own black Servants, whilst the poorer sort are obliged to do it themselves. That labour in this Country is higher than it is in England, I can readily conceive. The ease with which a man can obtain land, in fee, beyond the Mountains, to which most of that class of people repair, may be assigned as the primary cause of it. But high wages is not the worst evil attending the hire of white men in this Country, for being accustomed to better fare than I believe the labourers of almost any other Country, adds considerably to the expence of employing them; whilst blacks, on the contrary, are cheaper; the common food of them (even when well treated) being bread, made of the Indian Corn, Butter milk, Fish (pickled herrings) frequently, and meat now and then; with a blanket for bedding: In addition to these, ground is often allowed them for gardening, and priviledge given them to raise dung-hill fowls for their own use. With the farmer who has not more than two or three Negros, little difference is made in the manner of living between the master and the man; but far otherwise is the case with those who are owned in great numbers by the wealthy; who are not always as kind, and as attentive to their wants and usage as they ought to be; for by these, they are fed upon bread alone, which does not, on an average, cost more than seven dollars a head pr. Ann (about 32/. Sterling).

From these data, in aid of my last communications, you will be able to form an idea of the cost of labour in this Country. It varies, however, in the different States as I have already observed, and sometimes in the same State; but may be said to vibrate with white men, between ten and fifteen pounds, and for black men between Eight and twelve pounds sterling pr.

Ann, besides their board. No difficulty, I should conceive, would be found in obtaining those of either description on the terms here mentioned; but I do not advance this with certainty, not having been in the habit of hiring any, myself, for several years past. Blacks are capable of much labour, but having (I am speaking generally) no ambition to establish a *good* name, they are too regardless of a *bad* one; and of course, require more of the masters eye than the former. Formerly, I have given to *skilful* and *careful* Cradlers, a dollar a day during harvest; which was a sixth more than the usual price; but then, I knew the men, and that they would oblige themselves to cut *clean,* and lay *well,* four acres of Wheat a day (if it did not stand very heavy on the ground); or, if I prefered it, they would cut by the Acre paying them at the rate of a dollar for every four acres. There are men who will rake and bind as fast as the Cradlers will cut the grain, but to do this is deemed hard work, and when done, entitles them to Cradlers wages. These people eat three times a day (once perhaps of milk) and are allowed a pint of spirits each man. A Barn floor, with straw and a blanket, serves them *at harvest* for lodging.

When I observed in a former letter that, "all our labour was performed by Negros," I must have alluded to the Custom in Virginia, the State in which I then lived, and from which I wrote; my last communication to you, was on a more extensive Scale, comprehending the practices, and prices of Pennsylvania and Maryland, as well as different parts of Virginia; which (latter) is a state of great extent, differing much in its products and culture.

The English Statute acre is the measure by which we have hitherto bought and sold land; and the price of land, as handed to you in my last, includes buildings, fences, arable, meadow, in short the improvements of every sort appertaining to the

tract, on which they are placed. To a stranger at a distance, this aggregate mode of estimating the value of a farm is, it must be confessed, dark, and unsatisfactory; but to the parties present, who see and examine every thing, and judge for themselves, it is quite immaterial. The *Seller* warrants the title, and quantity which he sells; and *both* form an opinion of the total worth of the premises. It rarely happens, however, that buildings and other improvements are estimated by the purchaser at near what they cost the Seller, especially on *old* farms which have been a good deal worked; the received opinion being, that fresh land without improvements, is more to be desired than worn, and much abused land is with such as are usually found thereon; but this is to be considered as a general, not an invariable rule; for the better and more attentive farmers keep their farm in high order, and value the improvements accordingly.

Never having been in England, I ought not to hazard an opinion, or attempt a comparison between the Soil of that Country and this, in their virgin and unimproved State; but from what I know of the one, and have heard of the other, I should decide in favor of the latter at a distance from the Sea-board; which from the highlands of Neversink (in East Jersey) to Florida inclusively, is flat; and with but few exceptions, sandy, and generally of mean quality. From the falls of the Rivers to the Mountains, which is generally from Sixty to 100 miles, and above the latter, except the craggy hills and mountains which lye between the Eastern and Western waters; the best lands are found: They are strong, and after having been used, and abused in a shameful manner, will, with a little repose, get covered with white clover. The upper Country is healthiest also.

You seem surprised, and no wonder, to hear that many of our farmers, if they may be so called, cultivate much ground for

little profit; because land is cheap, and labour is high; but you will remember, that when I informed you of this fact, I reprobated at the sametime both the practice and the principle. The history however of it, is this, a piece of land is cut down and kept under constant cultivation, first in Tobacco and then in Indian Corn (two very exhausting plants) until it will yield scarcely anything; a second piece is cleared and treated in the same manner; then a third, and so on until probably, there is but little more to clear. When this happens, the owner finds himself reduced to the choice of one of three things; either to recover the land which he has ruined, to accomplish which he has perhaps neither the skill, the industry, nor the means; or to retire beyond the Mountains; or to substitute quantity for quality, in order to raise something. The latter has been generally adopted; and with the assitance of horses, he *scratches* over much ground, and Seeds it, to very little purpose as you may suppose, and have been informed; for I presume an English farmer would bestow more labour on *one* acre by deep and frequent ploughings, besides the dressings he gives to the land, than the other does on *five* acres. It is but justice, however, to Pennsylvania, to declare that her husbandry (though not perfect) is much better; and her crops proportionably greater. The practice above mentioned applies more particularly to the Tobacco States which, happily, are yielding more and more every year to the growth of Wheat, and as this prevails the husbandry improves. Instances could be enumerated, and where no extraordinary dressing or management has been used, of land yielding from thirty to forty bushels of Wheat pr. acre, that *has been* very much exhausted.

Your mode of calculating the taxes of this Country, being unusual *with us,* I may not accurately understand it; and as the

Virginia method was, if I recollect rightly, detailed in my former accounts, I know not how to give you a more distinct idea of them than by exhibiting the items of the specific charges on every species of taxable property, viz, on Land, Negros, Stock &ca. This, as it respects an estate in Virginia with which I am very well acquainted, I am enabled to do, and will do. We have a road tax besides but it is light, and in most of the States paid by a contribution of labour, which rarely exceeds two days in the year, for each male labourer. Dutiable articles is a distinct tax, the quantum of which depends upon the consumption, and the consumption upon the disposition of the consumer: with the aid therefore of the Laws (which I sent you) every man can calculate, better than I am able to do for him, the amount of his own expenditures in this way. An additional duty, or excise, was imposed last Session; and this being now sent, will, if I am not mistaken (with what was mentioned in my former communication) bring *every tax, direct, and indirect,* to your view, to which property, in this Country, is subjected; either by the general government, or the laws of the States of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, to which my observations have been confined.

Beef, and other meats; Grain of all sorts, and flour; Butter; Cheese; and other things in quantities to make them an object; are always, I conceive, in demand; and are saught after by the purchasers. The sale of lesser articles, at a distance from market towns, may, sometimes, stick on hand; but rarely, I believe forego a sale if they are worth the transportation. Sheep thrive very well in the middle States, though they are not exempt from deseases, and are often injured by dogs; and more so as you approach the Mountains, by wolves. Were we to use horses less, and Oxen more on our farms (as they do in the New England

States) we should, unquestionably, find our account in it; yet, strange as it may seem, *few* are in the practice of the latter, and *none* push the raising of Sheep to the extent they might, and ought to do. The fact is, we have, in a manner, everything to learn that respects neat, and profitable husbandry. Bakewells breed of Sheep are much celebrated, and deservedly I presume; but if entrusted to a common Bailiff (or what with us is called an Overseer) would, I should apprehend, soon degenerate for want of that care and attention, which is necessary to preserve the breed in its purity. But, the great impediment is, the British Statutes. These discourage men of delicacy in this Country from attempting what might involve the Master of a Vessel in serious consequences if detected in the breach of them. Others however, less scrupulous, have attempted to import English Rams with Success, and by this means our flocks in many places are much improved; mine for instance, 'though I never was concerned directly nor indirectly in the importation of one, farther than by buying lambs which have descended from them, the average weight of the fleeces being 5 lbs.

Our modes, system we have none, are so different from yours, generally speaking, and our business being carried on so much within ourselves, so little by hiring, and still less by calculation, that I frankly confess to you, I am unable to solve your query respecting Sheepwalks, or how many sheep an acre of Woodland pasture would support.

I shall have pleasure at all times as far as I possess the means, or can command them, to give you every information that can contribute to your *own* satisfaction, or that of *a friend;* but I am so thoroughly persuaded of my inability to throw new lights upon any branch of husbandry in a Country where it is so well understood as in England; and, that anything I could write to

you on that subject, would only serve to expose the defective practice of my Countrymen, and be considered as the beacon of our ignorance, that I am disinclined to see any production of mine in a work, where so much useful information is conveyed to the public, as is to be found in your Annals of Agriculture.

With very great esteem I am etc.

PS. June 21st. I have not yet received the account of taxes I promised you, and for which I had written to Virginia; but I will send it by the first conveyance after its arrival. This letter goes by Mr. Pinckney Minister from the U. States to the Court of London, through which channel I recommend any letters you may favor me with to pass, who being detained a day or two longer than was expected, by the Vessel in which he is to embark, has given me an opportunity of asking Mr. Jefferson (who is well acquainted in the South Western parts of Virginia, near Charlotsville), and Mr. Peters (one of the best farmers in the State of Pennsylvania, about Six miles from this City) to give me there sentiments on the several queries contained in your letter. These you will find enclosed herewith, in there own words. On applying to Colo. Hamilton for the statement mentioned in Mr. Peters' letter he put into my hands, together with the statement, several communications which were made to him last year by some of the most respectable farmers in this part of the Country, in consequence of an application from him for information on certain points respecting farms, And as they appeared to contain some matters worth attention I had them copied, and they are also enclosed. Mine, and each of theirs, is written without any previous consultation; and may be considered (my estate, in the neighbourhood of which I am best acquainted (lying abt. midway between theirs) as the opinions of men living North, South and in the centre of the District, of

which an account was given to you in my communications of the 4th. of December last.[40]

To REVEREND GEORGE SKENE KEITH[41]

Philadelphia, June 22, 1792.

Revd. Sir: I have received your letter of the 14th. of January, together with the Copies of a pamphlet on Weights, Measures and Coins, which accompanied it.

On the 7th. of May I acknowledged the receipt of your letter[42] dated July 1st. 1791, and its enclosure, which did not get to my hands 'till sometimes this Spring.

I have now to request you will accept my thanks for this further mark of politeness and attention in sending me this additional number of your tracts, as well as for the manuscript which accompanied them. The subject of your Book is of high importance to society in general, and particularly to the Commercial World. If an uniformity of weights and measures could be established upon a proper foundation through the several nations of Europe and in the United States of America, it's advantages would be great indeed; and so important is the object that we ought not to lose sight of it, altho' it may not be attained at the present moment.

I have caused the letter to Mr. Barclay,[43] and one of the Pamphlets to be sent to Easten agreeably to your request. I am etc.[44]

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[40] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

Jefferson's notes and letter are in the *Washington Papers* under date of June 18. All the replies sent to Washington, in answer to his request, are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers* immediately following this letter to Young.

[41] Then located near Aberdeen, Scotland.

[42] This acknowledgment, a brief note by Tobias Lear, is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[43] Rev. John Barclay, of St. Luke's parish, Easton, Md.

[44] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To SIR EDWARD NEWENHAM

Philadelphia, June 22, 1792.

Dr. Sir: I have now before me your letters of the 9 of January and 12 of February to which it will not be in my power to reply so fully as my inclination would lead me to do if I had no avocation but those of a personal nature.

I regret exceedingly that the disputes between the protestants and Roman Catholics should be carried to the serious alarming height mentioned in your letters. Religious controversies are always productive of more acrimony and irreconcilable hatreds than those which spring from any other cause; and I was not without hopes that the enlightened and liberal policy of the present age would have put an effectual stop to contentions of this kind.

The present appears to be an eventful moment in Europe. The declaration of War by France against the King of Hungary will probably soon discover what part the several Nations in Europe will take; but when or where these agitations which now shake that quarter of the globe will terminate is beyond the Ken of human wisdom. Notwithstanding our local situation and political circumstances guard us against an interference in the contests between the European powers; yet we cannot be indifferent as to the issue of a business in which the happiness of so many millions of our fellow citizens is involved. We have had nothing from France since the declaration of War, but are waiting with no small degree of anxiety for furtheir intelligence which may enable us to form some *conjecture* on this momentous business.

I am happy in being able to inform you that the affairs of this Country are still going on in a prosperous train. The harvest through the several States, so far as I have been able to

extend my enquiries, promises to be abundant for the quantity sown; and it is said by those who are well acquainted with the subject, that there has never been a year in which so much land has been cultivated in grain, particularly wheat, as in the present. I paid a visit to Mount Vernon immediately on the rising of Congress, and was much pleased to find the appearance of crops of my own farms much more flattering than I had known them for many years past, and the Country generally exhibited the face of plenty. An insect called the Hessian Fly, has made it's appearance and done some mischief in parts of this State, Delaware and Maryland; but the destruction occasioned by this enemy will bear but a very trifling proportion to the whole crop of the Country, and I am informed that it's ravages where it has been found this year, are far less than those committed by the same insect some years ago. An investigation of the natural history and progress of this insect is now taking place in order to see if some effectual measures cannot be fallen upon to prevent it's devastations. As it is a subject deeply interesting to every individual in the community I flatter myself that such enquiries and communications will be made respecting it as will lead to it's extirpation.

Mrs. Washington unites with me in sincere wishes for the health and happiness of Lady Newenham and yourself. I am etc.[45]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

June 29, 1792.

I am grieved to find that Mr. Short was, on the 22d of April, without his Comn. and Instructions;[46] and that Mr. Morris was not then in Paris.[47]

[45] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[46] Jefferson has noted, at the bottom of the page: "it proved afterwds that the ship carrying the instructions was wrecked."

[47] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To GOVERNOR HENRY LEE

(Private)

Philadelphia, June 30, 1792.

Dear Sir. Your favor of the 15th. came duly to hand,[48] but at a time when I was much engaged with the Secretary of State in despatching Mr. Pinckney to the Court of London, and in considering other business of importance.

I shall repeat in this letter what I have declared to you on a former occasion, viz, that wishing to promote the public weal,

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[48]Lee's disappointment at not having been appointed to command the Army, succeeding St. Clair, is recorded in this letter. He wrote:

"You cannot be a stranger to the extreme disgust, which the late appointment to the command of the army excited among all orders in this state, whether the same be just or not, is immaterial at present, or whether taking into view all the circumstances of the case a better appointment could have been made is by no means the object of my enquiry. The event was the subject of general conversation, during which period Col. Darke visited Richmond, and of course became a party in the opinions and communications given on the occasion. What he said to me was in my judgment necessary to you, and I took the liberty to write to Col. Darke, requesting him to commit to paper the conversation between us the previous day. This he did, and I enclose it for your perusal.

"I thought it proper to send you the original, although the handwriting is rather obscure, lest a copy might in any degree change the meaning of the communication. If Col. Dark is right it follows clearly that in a very important matter to yourself and the community, one of your officers exerted himself to encrease certain difficultys which obstructed the execution of your own wishes, instead of endeavoring to remove them, acting in obedience to his own desire rather than following the decision of his superior. If your ministers dare thus to do, you must be subject to hourly impositions, and the national concerns will be regulated by their and not your judgment. I have not nor shall I lisp a word of this communication to the gentlemen whom it concerns. For yourself only it is intended. It is not in my power to ascertain whether the same be true or not; you can readily distinguish this fact. Col. Darke is a man of truth and honor, and he speaks positively. You will I trust, be the event as it may impute my conduct to the motives which produce it, respect and attachment to yourself. Personally I do not feel on the occasion, only that I cannot dissemble the gratification which the opinion you were pleased to express of my talents afforded, and indeed I am candid to declare, that I prefer such a testimonial, to the office itself to which I might have been appointed."

Lee did, however, make a marginal comment on Darke's letter, as follows: "Two conversations with the secretary of war; the first of which he urged the objections to my rank, persuading Col Dark that he could not in honor serve under me. The second conversation the same idea was pressed and the information given as to my appointment." Both Lee's letter of June 15 and Darke's letter to Lee of May 12 are in the *Washington Papers*.

and to make justice and impartiality the lines by which to walk to accomplish this, every information that can enable me to tread on such firm grd., or which would enable me to investigate with more accuracy the characters of public men, or the utility of public measures; cannot fail of being acceptable to me, whilst I have any thing to do with either, particularly the latter.

Having premised these truths, I shall add, on the subject of your letter, that I can no more condemn G. K.[49] on the evidence of Colo. D——s[50] letter to you; than I am disposed to go into a *full* vindication of his conduct against the implications which are contained in that Letter. When assertion stands against assertion, recourse must be had to collateral circumstances to come at the truth, or the preponderating weight; but these are not necessary in the instance before us, for it will not be unfair to declare, that the conduct of Colo. D—— is uncandid, and that his letter is equivocal. He acknowledges in it, that when *I* asked if he would serve, if you should be appointed to the chief command, that he gave no answer; but does not, in any part of his letter tell you what answer he gave G K to the same question; unless you take the following for one, when he was applied to, to know if he would accept of an appointment "I told him I first wanted to know who would command the Army, and said *something of you, and some other*" but are these equivocal expressions to be placed against the positive declaration of the other? especially too, when Colo. D—— in relating the conversation which passed between himself and me, has mistaken both the substance and tendency of it; For you may be assured, Sir, I never mentioned your name, or the name of any man living to him as one who was in the smallest degree fixed on,

[49] Gen. Henry Knox.
[50] Col. William Darke.

for the command. The Secretary of War, himself, was unacquainted with the final decision when Colo. D—— left this City. The truth is, I never was more embarrassed in any appointt. and the object of my conversation with the latter was to learn the public sentiment as far as it could be obtained from him, with respect to this matter; And to questions of this tendency he said he had heard Morgan, Scott, and yourself mentioned on his journey through, and from Kentucky to his own house and, if I understood the significancy of things not expressed he compd. himself. I took an occasion *then,* to observe, that I conceived few men were better qualified for such a command than you were and asked if he thought your junr. rank in the late Army would be an objection with those who had been your seniors in it to serve under you; his reply, (when a little pushed by bringing the case home to himself for I wanted to draw an explicit declaration from him) was, that he believed it would be an unpleasant, or a grating thing, or words to that effect; but the manner, more than the expression throughout the whole of the convern. which was after dinnr. and when we were alone led me to conclude that it would not be relished by him. What his real intensions might be at that time; when he was speaking to G K, or lastly to you no one but himself is master of.

I have no hesitation in declaring to you that the biass of my inclination was strongly in your favor; but, that the result of my enquiries, direct and indirect, of Military, and indeed of other characters (who were well disposed to see you in nomination) was, that if you were appointed to the Command it would be vain to look for Senior Officers to act subordinately; or if they consented, it would be so grudgingly as, more than probably, the seeds of Sedition would be coeval with the formation of the Army; such being the nature of military pride.

Admitting this, then one of two things would inevitably have followed; either an army composed of discontented materials, or of junr. characters; the first might be attended with fatal consequences; the other (however excellent the Officers might be) if any disaster should befal the Army it would instantly be ascribed to the inexperience of the principal Officers in stations to which they had never been accustomed; thereby drawing a weight upon my shoulders too heavy to be borne. This was my *own* view of the subject; and the principle upon which I acted; not, be assured, because G K was of this, or of that opinion. The fact, I sincerely believe is, that he was as much puzzled as I was, to fix on the first Officer, under the circumstances that existed.

How far the appointment of G W[51] is a popular, or an unpopular measure is not for me to decide. It was not the determination of a moment, nor was it the effect of partiality or of influence; for no application (if that in any instance could have warped my judgment) was ever made in his behalf from any one who could have thrown the weight of a feather into his scale but because, under a full view of *all* circumstances he appeared most eligable. To a person of your observation and intelligence, it is unnecessary to remark that an appointment which may be unpopular in one place, and with one set of men, may not be so in another place or with another set of Men and vice versa; and that to attempt to please every body is the sure way to please nobody; of course the attempt would be as idle as the executn. wd be impracticable. G W has many good points as an Officer, and it is to be hoped, that time, reflection, good advice, and above all, a due sence of the importance of the trust which is committed to him, will correct his foibles, or cast a shade over them. With estm and regd. I am &c.

[51] Gen. Anthony Wayne.

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

City of Philadelphia, June 30, 1792.

For carrying into execution the provisions of the third section of the Act intitled, "An Act making certain appropriations therein specified, passed the Eighth day of May in this present year.

I do hereby authorise you the said Secretary of the Treasury in the name and on the credit of the United States to borrow of any body or bodies politic, person or persons whomsoever the sum of Fifty thousand Dollars;[52] and to enter into such agreements for the reimbursement thereof as shall be needful and proper; hereby promising to ratify whatever you shall lawfully do in the premises.[53]

*To JOHN FRANCIS MERCER

Philadelphia, June 30, 1792.

Sir: I little expected that I should have had occasion, at this time (after the pointed assurances you gave me more than three years ago, of discharging what was due to me, fully to remind you that I have received only Three hundred and eighty pds. of the balance; and to ask what I am to expect from you in future.

I delayed from day to day while you were in this City (until it was too late) to apply to you on this subject, in hope, and in expectation that you would not have left town without mentioning it yourself. Before I apply to the Executors of Colonels Tayloe and Thornton who were securities for the money loaned to your deceased father, John Mercer Esqr., I will await the receipt of your answer to this letter, which I hope will be given as soon as you can make it convenient.

[52] The total amount authorized in Section 3 for expenses of foreign intercourse.
[53] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

It has been of little avail hitherto, to inform you of the causes of my want of this money; although, in more instances than one, I have done it with the utmost truth and candour: nor should I say anything further to you on this head now, were I not in a manner compelled to declare, that from an occurence which did not exist before, I have a call upon me for a considerable sum, in a few months; against which, it is *indispensably necessary* that I should be provided. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, July 1, 1792.

Mr. Whiting: Your letter of the 24th. Ulto. came duly to hand, and I am glad to find by it that you have had *some* rains though not as *much* as has fallen in these parts, and that your Crops are deriving the benefit of them. If the Corn is standing, and alive, I do not, on account of its backwardness, despair of a Crop; if you are able to keep it clean, and the ground well pulverised; which I hope will be the case.

It is much my wish that the swamps at both places may be got fully into Corn; if for no other reason than that of working the grd. to destroy the wild growth, to pulverize, and to level it. I wish also that No. 2 at Dogue Run may have all the missing hills of both Corn and Potatoes made good; the first with early Corn; and the latter with any kind of Potatoes you may have, or can get. Without this I shall not ascertain a fact I was very desirous of knowing.

I am very glad to receive so favorable an Account of your Wheaten prospect, although it be touched with the Rust, and not filled so well as might be wished: and I am much pleased at your beginning harvest so soon, notwithstanding the prognostics of the Farmers around you. I am satisfied there is more

utility, and less danger and loss in doing it; than if it had been delayed until their ideas had made it fit for the scythe or Sickle.

In my last I suggested to you a wish that the Brick yard inclosure might be sown with Buck-wheat and grass seeds; and these wishes are not changed. If the Buck wheat will not kill the grass that is sown with it, it will certainly shade, protect and keep it moist at a time when the hot Sun would be very apt to injure it. Turnips in my opinion will not answer well in that ground, first because they will not come off in time for fall sowing of the grass, and secondly, because they are considered as a very exhausting Crop when they are not fed off.

I expect, if nothing happens more than I know of at present, to set out for Mount Vernon about the twelfth of this month: previous to my arrival, I desire you will have the Well by the Kitchen thoroughly cleaned, by some professional people; and while they are about it that they may be well attended, as you know accidents frequently happen in this work, by the noxtious effluvia that sometimes arise in these places, I would not have any of my own people descend into it: The same persons, or some other skilful one might be employed to sink the Well directly opposite to the centre of the green house, but just within the Brick yard Inclosure so as not to interfere with the Road. This well is to be walled with the Bricks that are making, and which ought to be exceedingly well burnt, and none used for that purpose that are not so. The diameter after it is walled should be, in the clear, five feet; for the purpose of admitting a frame at the bottom that is necessary for a new mode of drawing Water; but, if the Well could be sunk I would not have it Walled up (for the reason above) until I arrive. It will take about 200 bricks for every foot the Well is deep, and not less than 60 feet depth ought to be calculated upon; this would require 12000 hard bricks; and to obtain them 15,000 ought to be

made, and so disposed of in the kiln as to insure their being well burnt; about 50,000 of the common Bricks will be sufficient for the purpose for which they are intended.

The Ferry and French's Plantations were not noticed in the last weeks report. I am etc.[54]

To JOHN GREENWOOD

Philadelphia, July 1, 1792.

Sir: Your letter of the first of May and the box which accompanied it came safe, and duly to hand on the eve of my departure for Virginia; which is the reason why I have not acknowledged the receipt of them sooner.

The contents of the latter (with the alteration which were necessarily made) answered very well; and enclosed you have, in Banknotes, twenty dollars, the sum I have usually sent you, but if it is insufficient let me know it and more shall be forwarded by Sir Yr. etc.[55]

To WOODBURY LANGDON

July 2, 1792.

Sir: I am commanded by the President of the United States to inform you, that it is indispensably necessary you should without delay repair to the seat of Government to prosecute jointly with your colleagues the business of your office as Commissioner.[56] It being of great and real importance that the settlement of the public accounts should be brought to a close as speedily as possible; and, as in order to this, it is essential that

[54] The original is in the possession of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

[55] From a copy in the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

[56] For settling accounts between the United States and individual States.

it should be pursued with diligence and perseverance, I am further instructed by the President to say, that if any circumstances in your situation should be incompatible with your immediate and steady attendance, it is proper you should resign the Office; for, however he should regret the necessity of a change at such a stage of the business, which could not fail to be attended with inconvenience, he must regard this as a less evil than frequent interruptions of it's course, by absences of the Commissioners. I have the honor etc.[57]

*To GOVERNOR HENRY LEE

Philadelphia, July 3, 1792.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 20th. Ulto. was presented to me yesterday by Mr. Williams,[58] who, as a professional man, may, or may not be, a luminary of the first magnitude for aught I know to the contrary. But to be frank, and I hope you will not be displeased with me for being so, I am so heartily tired of the attendance which, from one cause or another, I have bestowed on these kind of people, that it is now more than two years since I have resolved to sit no more for any of them; and have adhered to it; except in instances where it has been requested by public bodies, or for a particular purpose (not of the Painters) and could not, without offence, be refused.[59]

I have been led to make this resolution for another reason besides the irksomeness of sitting, and the time I loose by it, which is, that these productions have, in my estimation, been

[57] This letter is signed "Tobs. Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[58] William J. Williams.

[59] The portrait was not executed until September, 1794, in Philadelphia. Having been refused a sitting at the above time, Williams offered the Masonic Lodge No. 22 of Alexandria the finished work, if the lodge would request him to make a portrait. The lodge approved this idea Aug. 29, 1793. The resultant portrait was executed in pastel, and is now in the possession of the lodge.

made use of as a sort of tax upon individuals, by being engraved, and that badly, and hawked, or advertised for Sale. With very great Esteem and regard I am &c.[60]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

July 6, 1792.

The enclosed[61] will, I think, throw the labouring Oar upon Mr. H——[62] and is approved of accordingly.[63]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Saturday, July 7, 1792.

Pray send me Mr. Hammond's communications to you on thursday[64] and your letter to him in answer; and let me see you at Eight Oclock this Morng. Yrs.[63]

To DAVID RITTENHOUSE[65]

United States of America, July 9, 1792.

Having had under consideration the letter of the Director of the Mint of this day's date, I hereby declare my approbation of the purchase he has made of the house and lot for the Mint; of the employment of Mr. Voight[66] as Coiner; of the procuring fifteen tons of Copper, and proceedings to coin the Cents and

[60] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Harry McN. Bland, of New York.

[61] The inclosure was Jefferson's letter to Hammond, July 6, 1792, a press copy of which is in the *Jefferson Papers*.

[62] George Hammond.

[63] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[64] A press copy of Hammond's letter is in the *Jefferson Papers*.

[65] Director of the United States Mint.

[66] Henry Voight.

half Cents of Copper, and Dimes and half dimes of silver; and I leave to his discretion to have such alterations and additions made to the buildings purchased, as he shall find necessary; satisfied that under his orders no expence will be incurred which reason and necessity will not justify. And I desire that he will make out an Estimate of the sums of money which will be wanting for these purposes, and of the times at which they will be wanting, in order to enable the Treasury to make arrangements for furnishing them with convenience.[67]

To DAVID STUART

Philadelphia, July 9, 1792.

Dr. Sir: Altho' I did not acknowledge the receipt of the letter you wrote to me some time ago respecting Bowls,[68] I was not unmindful of the contents; but upon consulting some professional gentlemen, I was informed that his being brother to the noted Bowls was not, without some overt act of his own, sufficient to lay hold of him.[69]

If nothing more happens than I am aware of at present, I shall leave this City on thursday with Mrs. Washington and the children for Mount Vernon; and if the weather is tolerable, and ourselves and horses keep up, I shall be, I expect, at George Town on Monday or tuesday of the week following.

I shall bring with me, or send on if I am likely to be delayed, the plans for the public buildings which were sent, I believe, by the Commissioners, to Mr. Jefferson; but if none more

[67] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. A press copy of the draft, in Jefferson's writing, is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[68] William Augustus Bowles. He was a loyalist from Maryland during the Revolutionary War.

[69] A brother to William Augustus Bowles.

elegant than these should appear on or before the 16 instant, the exhibition of architecture will be a very dull one indeed. My best wishes to Mrs. Stuart and the family; and, I am etc.[70]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

July 9, 1792.

Pray draught a proper answer to the enclosed, approving of what the Director of the Mint has done, and is about to do; and requesting an estimate of the money which will be wanted to enable him to proceed in the business of Coining agreeably to what he proposes.[71]

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

July 11, 1792.

The President of the U. S. informs the Secretary of State that he has retained one of the proof Sheets of the federal City,[72] and returns the others with the letter from Mr. Blodget, which the President thinks had better be sent to the Commissioners by the mail, which will certainly reach G. Town on Monday. The President's Cavalry are in such order that he cannot say with any precision when he shall reach that place; he however, wishes the Secretary to mention to the Commissioners that he sat out this afternoon but being incumbered

[70] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[71] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On July 10 Rittenhouse submitted an estimate of the price of the house to be purchased for the Mint, amounting to 4266⅔ dollars for the house and 933⅓ dollars for repairs, workmen's wages, etc. Also for 15 tons of copper @ 16 cents per lb. amounting to 4800 dollars; in all 10,000 dollars.

On July 10 Washington ordered the Secretary of the Treasury to pay $10,000 to the Director of the Mint. The estimate and the President's order are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

[72] Of Andrew Ellicott's engraved plan of Washington City.

with lame and sick horses it is uncertain when he will be at George-Town.

The President observes that the soundings of the River and Branch are not noted either in this or the other proof sheet, which he thinks would be very satisfactory and advantageous to have done.[73]

To GABRIEL P. VAN HORNE

Baltimore, July 14, 1792.

Sir: By order of the President of the United States, I beg leave to inform you, that one of the President's horses, which had been sick previous to his leaving Philadelphia,[74] was so far reduced and tired by the time he reached Bush-town, that the President was under the necessity of leaving him at that place in care of Mrs. Stiles.

The President requests the favor of you to enquire, and as soon as the horse is able to travel, that you will contrive to send him to Alexandria, either by driving him in one of your Stage Coaches (as he is a carriage horse), or by causing one of your Stage Drivers to lead him.

The President will willingly pay any expence which may attend the sending the Horse to Alexandria. I am etc.[75]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Private)

George Town, July 17, 1792.

Dear Sir: I am extremely sorry to find by the enclosed letter that the affairs of France put on so disagreeable an aspect.

[73] In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[74] Washington left Philadelphia, July 11.
[75] This letter is signed "Bw. Dandridge" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

As I know it is your intention to proceed immediately on, I will not ask you to call at Mt. Vernon now but hope it is unnecessary to say that I shall be glad to see you on your way going or returning. I am etc.[76]

*To JOHN LEWIS

Mount Vernon, July 20, 1792.

Dr. Sir: I was in hopes the letter wch. was written to you at my request, by my Nepw. G. A: Washington, dated the 25th. of March, wd. have rendered a further application from me to you, on that subjt. unnecessary; but as he says you have made no reply to it; as I am informed that my power of attorney to you was regularly recorded in Gates County No Carolina and that Mr. Cowper[77] is making great improvements upon the land (which is an evidence that the bargain with him is closed and of course the money paid, as that was the condition of it) and, as you are upon the point of removing to Kentucky. I must, and do *insist positively* upon receiving my moiety of the money, which has been paid by Mr. Cowper or any person in his behalf before you go, and to know how the ballance stands.

You must be sensible, Sir, it was my opinion at the time you proposed to make sale of this land that the moment was not favorable for it; but, as the Affairs of your fathers Estate pressed, and my own want of money was great, I consented to its being done; but I cannot nor will not consent to lye out of my moiety of the money that has been receid in payment. I am etc.[78]

[76] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[77] John Cowper.

[78] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of E. Francis Riggs, of Hyattsville, Md.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, July 23, 1792.

Dear Sir: The friday after you left this place I received the enclosed dispatches from Governor Chittendon, of the State of Vermont.

If you conceive it to be necessary, undr. the circumstances which exist, to write again to that Gentleman before he replies to your former letter on the subject in dispute, you will, of course, take such measures thereupon as shall appear proper under a full view of all circumstances. With great esteem and regard I am etc.[79]

*To JOHN FRANCIS MERCER

Mount Vernon, July 23, 1792.

Sir: Your favor of the 10th. did not get to my hands until Saturday last, although I sent to the Post Office regularly, every Post day since I came to this place for the lettrs. wch. I expected.

Your letter conveys no specific assurance of the time, or manner of discharging the bale which is due to me. I am placed on no better, indeed on no worse ground, than I stood years ago with respect to this debt; and you cannot have forgotten that these were my apprehensions, which I expressed to you upon more occasions than one. Why then should I be told at this late day after every endeavor on my part to accommodate matters to your convenience, of your intention of offering all your property for sale when part of it ought to have been applied to my use years since? or to what purpose (for me I mean) is it that you should offer property for sale, if the price set thereon will admit no purchasers, or if sold that the money is to be converted

[79] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

to other uses than for my benefit? The latter you must be sensible I know to have been the case, and the other, as it respects negroes which you offered to me formerly, and from other circumstances, I have no reason to disbelieve.

It is not from inclination, that I become acquainted with any Gentlemans circumstances, and far is it from my practice to investigate what he owes; but you must excuse me when I tell you, that I have heard enough of yours to give me some uneasiness, as well on your acct. as on mine. To two facts I shall glance. A Gentn. in Phila., witht. having the least suspicion (I believe) how matters stood between you and me, was enquiring into the value of your Marlborough Estate; and through another channel I understd. the reason was that your debt to him was considerable; and that, *that was the mean* by which he was to be secured. The other, is the Agency of Mr. Montague who I know is determined to push the settlement of that business. Others I have also heard of: but nothing, I beg you to be persuaded, Sir, but my own interest in the case, would have induced me to mention them to you. Hard indeed then would it be upon me if after twenty odd years endulgence and receiving *any thing,* and *driblets* as they were offered which dissipated [mutilated] as inscrutably as the morning dew that I should be *still* postponed or put off with vague promises, until perhaps, you and your property may have parted.

There can be no difficulty in settg. *this,* or any other Acct. where the debits and credits are regular, and the intentions of the parties are fair; and I am persuaded if you will be at the trouble of riding to this place, a few hours will ascertain the bale which is due to me; or in case a disagreement should arise on any point, it might be so stated as that an impartial Umpire might decide it for us witht. trouble or lawsuits; besides, I have

at this place a number of letters, Papers, and the Mill Books, which might throw light upon things which to you may seem to want explanation, and cannot be had elsewhere. Other matters also might be more clearly explained, and better understd. by oral conversation than is practicable by letter. I know of nothing (at present) that will call me from home soon, unless I should go to the New City the first day of next month; of which I gave the Commrs. some, but no positive intimation. However, if you are inclined to comply with this request, and will name the precise day you will be here, I will not be from home.

I beg you to be assured, that it will be extremely irksome and painful to me to go into a Court of Justice for the recovery of what is due to me, and for which I have with very great inconvenience and disadvantage to myself, waited so long; but it must be the case unless it can be averted by some measure wch. possibly, may be adopted at the meeting wch. is now proposed, and which it may be well for you to think on, previous thereto.

I have not yet been called upon legally to answer the complaint of Henshaw; but shall be ready to do it whenever it shall be found necessary or expedient and for that purpose shall keep the Bill, and the answer which you have drawn until I either see you, or hear from you again. The answer as drawn mistated a fact with respect to the power vested in Mr. Lund Washington. The truth of that matter stands thus. The Sale as you have recited, was made in Novr. 1774 on 12 months credit. In May following I went to the second Congress as a member thereof, witht. givg. Lund Washtn. then or at any time thereafter [mutilated] powers fully expecting to return as soon as the business of the Session should close; but, being chosen to commd. the Army, I proceeded to Cambridge and from thence,

as soon as it became apparent to me that my absence from home was likely to be of much longer continuance than I had calculated upon, I wrote to Colo. Tayloe informing him thereof, and desiring him to take the *sole* management of the trust wch. had been commitd. to us jointly upon himself, as my situation would no longer permit me to pay any further attention to it, and because I should not consider myself responsible for any transaction subsequent to the Sale. previous to which he had thrown the whole burthen upon me and nothing remained for him to do but appoint a Collector (if he did not chuse to be at the trouble himself), and submit the money to the decision of the court agreeably to its decretal Order. What *he* did, or rather what he neglected to do, would be tedious to relate, and I presume can compose no part of my answer. and with respect to the particular instance of depreciation as stated in the answer my memory is not furnished with the circumstance at prest. I am etc.[80]

*To ROBERT MORRIS

Mount Vernon, July 23, 1792.

Dear Sir: This letter will be presented to you by Mr. Jno. Auge. Spotswood, son of General Spotswood. The enclosure, communicates the ideas of the father, and the wishes of the Son as fully as it is in my power to make them known to you, and when compared with the former letters from Genl. Spotswood to me, which you have seen, leaves nothing more for me to add on this subject than to say that your good Offices in behalf of the young Gentleman will oblige the father, the Son and myself.

I have no knowledge of the young man, nor have I the least reason to distrust the character given of him by his father; but

[80] From a photostat of the original draft in the possession of E. Francis Riggs, of Hyattsville, Md.

it is a fathers account, and you, better than I well know whether any, and what allowances are to be made for it.

Mrs. Washington joins with me in a tender of best wishes for Mrs. Morris yourself the rest of the family. With very great esteem and regard I am etc.[81]

*To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mount Vernon, July 23, 1792.

Gentlemen: Your favor of the 19th, accompanying Judge Turner's[82] plan for a Capitol, I have duly received; and have no hesitation in declaring that I am more agreeably struck with the appearance of it than with any that has been presented to you. I return it without delay, because (among other reasons for doing it) Mr. Turner wishes to receive it, in any event, immediately.

There is the same defect, however, in this plan as there is in all the plans which have been presented to you, namely: the want of an Executive apartment: wch. ought, if possible, to be obtained. The Dome, which is suggested as an addition to the center of the edifice, would, in my opinion, give beauty and grandeur to the pile; and might be useful for the reception of a Clock, Bell, &ca. The Pilastrade too, in my judgment, ought (if the plan is adopted) to be carried around the semicircular projections at the ends; but whether it is necessary to have the elevation of the upper Storey 41 feet is questionable; unless it be to preserve exactness in the proportion of the several parts of the building; in that case, the smaller rooms in that Storey

[81] From a photostat of the original in the possession of the Rosenbach Company, of New York (1930).

[82] Judge George Turner.

would be elivated sufficiently if cut in two, and would be the better for it in the interior provided they can be lighted. This would add to the number of Committee rooms of which there appears to be a dificiency: And quere, would not the section B in the North division of plan No. 2 be more usefully applied as a library than for the purpose it is designated?

Could such a plan as Judge Turner's be surrounded with Columns, and a colonade like that which was presented to you by Monsr. Hallet (the roof of Hallet's I must confess does not hit my taste) without departing from the principles of Architecture, and would not be too expensive for our means, it would, in my judgment, be a noble and desireable Structure. But, I would have it understood in *this* instance, and *always,* when I am hazarding a sentiment on these buildings, that I profess to have no knowledge in Architecture, and think we should (to avoid criticisms) be governed by the established rules which are laid down by the professors of this Art.

I think you have engaged Mr. Hoben upon advantageous terms; and hope if his industry and honesty are of a piece with the specimen he has given of his abilities, he will prove a useful man and a considerable acquisition. The enclosed Is handed to you, merely because it is my wish that you should be possessed of every information of the kind that comes to my knowledge. The person therein mentioned (Stevens)[83] was a Lieutt. Colonel of Artillery during the War, and was (and for aught I know to the contrary, is) a Sober, honest and good tempered man. Very industrious, Fertile in invention and resources, and great at execution. He was, as I have been informed, bred a house Carpenter; but how well acquainted he may be with that business, or how far he may be able to carry on work in a masterly manner upon a grand scale, I have no data to decide upon.

[83] Ebenezer Stevens, of Rhode Island.

He is a native of Boston, but since the War has lived in New York, where he carries on the business of a lumber Merchant to (I believe) a considerable extent. With great esteem etc.[84]

*To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

(Private and Confidential)

Mount Vernon, July 29, 1792.

My dear Sir: I have not yet received the new regulation of allowances to the Surveyors, or Collectors of the duties on Spirituous liquors; but this by the bye. My present purpose is to write you a letter on a more interesting and important subject. I do it in strict confidence, and with frankness and freedom.

On my way home, and since my arrival here, I have endeavoured to learn from sensible and moderate men, known friends to the Government, the sentiments which are entertained of public measures. These all agree that the Country is prosperous and happy; but they seem to be alarmed at that system of policy, and those interpretations of the Constitution which have taken place in Congress. Others, less friendly perhaps to the Government, and more disposed to arraign the conduct of its Officers (among whom may be classed my neigbour, and quandom friend Colo. M[85]) go further, and enumerate a variety of matters, wch. as well as I can recollect, may be adduced under the following heads. Viz.

First. That the public debt is greater than we can possibly pay before other causes of adding new debt to it will occur; and that this has been artificially created by adding together the whole amount of the debtor and creditor sides of the accounts, instead

[84] From the *Letter of the President of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress, where some later scribe has changed the year to 1793. The A. Df. S. in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* varies from this letter sent in minor verbal details only.

[85] George Mason.

of taking only their balances; which could have been paid off in a short time.

2d. That this accumulation of debt has taken for ever out of our power those easy sources of revenue, which, applied to the ordinary necessities and exigencies of Government, would have answered them habitually, and covered us from habitual murmerings against taxes and tax gatherers; reserving extraordidinary calls, for extraordinary occasions, would animate the People to meet them.

3d. That the calls for money have been no greater than we must generally expect, for the same or equivalent exigencies; yet we are already obliged to strain the *impost* till it produces clamour, and will produce evasion, and war on our Citizens to collect it, and even to resort to an *Excise* law, of odious character with the people; partial in its operation; unproductive unless enforced by arbitrary and vexatious means; and committing the authority of the Government in parts where resistance is most probable, and coercion least practicable.

4th. They cite propositions in Congress, and suspect other projects on foot, still to encrease the mass of the debt.

5th. They say that by borrowing at 2/3 of the interest, we might have paid off the principal in 2/3 of the time; but that from this we are precluded by its being made irredeemable but in small portions, and long terms.

6th. That this irredeemable quality was given it for the avowed purpose of inviting its transfer to foreign Countries.

7th. They predict that this transfer of the principal, when compleated, will occasion an exportation of 3 millions of dollars annually for the interest; a drain of Coin, of which as there has been no example, no calculation can be made of its consequences.

8th. That the banishment of our Coin will be compleated by the creation of 10 millions of paper money, in the form of Bank-bills, now issuing into circulation.

9th. They think the 10 or 12 pr. Ct. annual profit, paid to the lenders of this paper medium, are taken out of the pockets of the people, who would have had without interest the coin it is banishing.

10th. That all the Capitol employed in paper speculation is barren and useless, producing, like that on a gaming table, no accession to itself, and is withdrawn from Commerce and Agriculture where it would have produced addition to the common mass.

11th. That it nourishes in our citizens vice and idleness instead of industry and morality.

12th. That it has furnished effectual means of corrupting such a portion of the legislature, as turns the balance between the honest Voters whichever way it is directed.

13th. That this corrupt squadron, deciding the voice of the legislature, have manifested their dispositions to get rid of the limitations imposed by the Constitution on the general legislature; limitations, on the faith of which, the States acceded to that instrument.

14th. That the utlimate object of all this is to prepare the way for a change, from the present republican form of Government, to that of a monarchy; of which the British Constitution is to be the model.

15th. That this was contemplated in the Convention, they say is no secret, because its partisans have made none of it; to effect it then was impracticable; but they are still eager after their object, and are predisposing every thing for its ultimate attainment.

16th. So many of them have got into the legislature, that, aided by the corrupt squadron of paper dealers, who are at their devotion, they make a majority in both houses.

17th. The republican party who wish to preserve the Government in its present form, are fewer even when joined by the two, three, of half a dozen antifederalists, who, tho' they dare not avow it, are still opposed to any general Government: but being less so to a republican than a Monarchical one, they naturally join those whom they think pursuing the lesser evil.

18th. Of all the mischiefs objected to the system of measures before mentioned, none they add is so afflicting, and fatal to every honest hope, as the corruption of the legislature. As it was the earliest of these measures it became the instrument for producing the rest, and will be the instrument for producing in future a King, Lords and Commons; or whatever else those who direct it may chuse. Withdrawn such a distance from the eye of their Constituents, and these so dispersed as to be inaccessible to the public information, and particularly to that of the conduct of their own Representatives, they will form the worst Government upon earth, if the means of their corruption be not prevented.

19th. The only hope of safety they say, hangs now on the numerous representation which is to come forward the ensuing year; but should the majority of the new members be still in the same principles with the present; shew so much dereliction to republican government, and such a disposition to encroach upon, or explain away the limited powers of the Constitution in order to change it, it is not easy to conjecture what would be the result, nor what means would be resorted to for the correction of the evil. True wisdom they acknowledge should direct temperate and peaceable measures; but add, the division of sentiment and interest happens unfortunately, to be so geographical, that no mortal can say that what is most wise and temperate,

would prevail against what is more easy and obvious; they declare, they can contemplate no evil more incalculable than the breaking of the Union into two, or more parts; yet, when they view the mass which opposed the original coalescence, when they consider that it lay chiefly in the Southern quarter, that the legislature have availed themselves of no occasion of allaying it, but on the contrary whenever Northern and Southern prejudices have come into conflict, the latter have been sacrificed and the former soothed.

20th. That the owers of the debt are in the Southern and the holders of it in the Northern division.

21st. That the antifederal champions are now strengthened in argument by the fulfilment of their predictions, which has been brought about by the Monarchical federalists themselves; who, having been for the New government merely as a stepping stone to Monarchy, have themselves adopted the very construction, of which, when advocating its acceptance before the tribunal of the people, they declared it insusceptable; whilst the republican federalists, who espoused the same government for its intrinsic merits, are disarmed of their weapons, that which they denied as prophecy being now become true history. Who, therefore, can be sure they ask, that these things may not proselyte the small number which was wanting to place the majority on the other side; and this they add is the event at which they tremble.[86]

These, as well as my memory serves me, are the sentiments which, directly and indirectly, have been disclosed to me. To obtain light, and to pursue truth, being my sole aim; and

[86]The numbered paragraphs are, practically, verbatim copies from Jefferson's letter to Washington, May 23, 1792, which is in the *Washington Papers*. It is printed in *Jefferson's Writings* (P L. Ford, editor, Federal edition: 1904), vol. 6, p. 487.

Hamilton's reply to this letter is dated Aug. 18, 1792, and is in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress. His inclosing letter, of the same date, is in the *Washington Papers*. Both are printed in *Hamilton's Works* (Lodge edition, 1904), vol. 2, pp. 426, *et seq.*

wishing to have before me *explanations* of as well as the *complaints* on measures in which the public interest, harmony and peace is so deeply concerned, and my public conduct so much involved; it is my request, and you would oblige me by furnishing me, with your ideas upon the discontents here enumerated; and for this purpose I have thrown them into heads or sections, and numbered them that those ideas may apply to the corrispondent numbers. Although I do not mean to hurry you in giving your thoughts on the occasion of this letter, yet, as soon as you can make it convenient to yourself it would, for more reasons than one, be agreeable, and very satisfactory to me.

The enclosure in your letter of the 16th was sent back the Post after I received it, with my approving signature; and in a few days I will write to the purpose mentioned in your letter of the 22d. both to the Secretary of War and yourself. At present all my business, public and private, is on my own shoulders; the two young Gentlemen who came home with me, being on visits to their friends, and my Nephew, the Major, too much indisposed to afford me any aid, in copying or in other matters. With affectionate regard &c.[87]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, July 30, 1792.

Dear Sir: Your letter from New York came duly to hand, and I was glad to find you had got that far in safety. I wish the remainder of your journey may prove equally pleasant and prosperous. My journey was not of this sort, for after I had parted with the Coach horses I was plagued with those which succeeded them, the following day; and the sick mare, by a dose

[87] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

of Physic which had been administered the night I reached Chester, was so weakened, and failed so much, that she was unable to carry Austin any farther than Susquehanna: from thence she was led to Hartford[88] and left, and two days afterwards gave up the ghost.

I found the face of the Country here, and on the road this side Baltimore, much, very much indeed, parched by a severe drought; and the Corn in miserable plight; but the day and night we reached home there fell a most delightful and refreshing rain, and the weather since has been as seasonable as the most sanguine farmer could wish; and if continued to us may make our Indian Corn Crop midling, great it is hardly possible to be, so much was it in arrears when the rains set in.

Great complaints were heard of the Hessian fly, and of the Rust and Mildew, as I travelled on; and in some places I believe the damage has been great; but I conceive more is said than ought to be on this subject; and, that the Crop upon the whole will be abundent of Wheat: mine in quantity (and the quality is good) will, I expect, greatly exceed any I have made these several years past.

I found at George town many well conceived, and ingenious plans for the Public buildings in the New City: it was a pleasure indeed, to find, in an infant Country, such a display of Architectural abilities. The Plan of Mr. Hoben, who was introduced to me by Doctr. Tucker,[89] from Charleston, and who appears to be a very judicious Man, was made choice of for the Presidents House; and the Commissioners have agreed with him to superintend the building of it, and that of the Capitol also, if they should, thereafter, be disposed to put both under one management. He has been engaged in some of the first buildings in Dublin, appears a master workman, and has a great many

[88] Harford, Md.
[89] Thomas Tudor Tucker.

hands of his own. He has laid out the foundation which is now digging and will be back in a month to enter heartily upon the work. The Plan for the Capitol was not fixed on when I left George Town, two or three very elegant ones (among a great many others of less merit) had been presented, but the draughtsmen, not being there, a postponement became necessary to receive explanations. The Bridge[90] will be accomplished (it is said) by the time specified in the Contract; and everything that could be put in motion before the Plans for the public buildings were fixed on, is in as much forwardness as could be expected, and will now, I have no doubt, advance rapidly.

As you did not mention your having spoke to Mr. Morris[91] about the house, I am under some apprehension that you omitted to do it; which will be unlucky. Give me an Acct. of what I suggested to you as a matter for indirect enquiry. All here are well, except the Major, whose situation I think is unpromising and precarious, growing worse, they all join me in best wishes for Mrs. Lear, yourself and the Child. I am etc. [H.L.]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, August 1, 1792.

Sir: I learn with pleasure from the War Office, by the Secretary's last dispatches, that our Northwestern frontier is in a state of tranquility: it may be construed into an indication that *some* of the messages which have been sent by Government have reached the hostile Tribes, and have occasioned them to deliberate thereon. Devoutly is it to be wished that the result may be favorable, both for themselves and the Ud. States.

No expectation of this, however, ought to suspend, or in the smallest degree relax the preparations for War; but as War

[90] Over Rock Creek.
[91] Robert Morris.

under any circumstances is expensive, and with such a long and rugged land transportation as the one by which we have to convey the supplies for the Army must, for the quantum of them, be extremely so. It behoves us to be as precise in all our arrangements, as œconomical in our provisions, as strict in our issues, and as correct in accounting for them to the War or Treasury Departments (as the case may happen to be) as possible. That I may know under what regulations these matters are, I have, by this days Post, written to the Secretary of War desiring him to report to me the mode which is pursued by his direction from thence, for providing, transporting, issueing and accounting for them. If the Treasury Department has an agency in any of these matters, I require a similar report from thence also.

Mr. Kean by a Letter which I have received from him, accepts his renewed Commission for settling the Accounts between the United States, and the individual States; which, please to say to him, gives me pleasures, and add, that any efforts he can make to bring this business to a speedy and happy issue, I shall consider as rendering an important service to the Union; because I view the closing of these Accots. *speedily* as extremely essential to it's interest and tranquility. Let me know if Mr. Langdon (the Commissioner) is returned to his duty? and in that case, when? I am etc.[92]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, August 1, 1792.

Sir: Your dispatches of the 14th. and 21st. Ulto. came duly to hand, and it is probable the Servt. who carries this letter to the Post Office, will bring me a third of this weeks date. I did not

[92] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

acknowledge the receipt of the first letter at an earlier date, because there was nothing contained in it, which required a reply. And I am too little acquainted with the Authority under which Colo. Henry Kerr detached Lt. Colo. Philips,[93] the cause, or the object of that detachment, to form so good an opinion of the propriety of the *measure* as it is easy for me to predict the probable consequences of it. I hope Major Gaither[94] has before this, embarked for that quarter, strongly impressed with the views of the general Government, and the disposition of it to *preserve* peace) if it can be done upon just and honorable grounds).

The tranquillity, which (by your last accts. handed to me) prevails on our No. Western frontiers gives me much satisfaction and affords a pleasing prospect that the exertions of government to bring the hostile Indian tribes into a pacific mood will not have been exercised in vain. This, however, is not to relax any preparation for a contrary event. Proceed as if war was inevitable: but do it, I entreat you, with all the œconomy which can result from system and good regulations. Our finances call for it, and if these did not, our reputation does. The supplies of an Army through so long and rugged a land transportation must, under the best management, be expensive; our attention, therefore ought to be proportionate; and that I may form some ideas of the former I desire you would report to me the regulations which you have adopted for providing, forwarding, and issuing of them, and the mode of having them accounted for to the departt. of War. I have written to the Secretary of the Treasury for similar information on these points so far as any of them may come within the purview of his department. Re-iterate, in your letters to Genl. Wayne, the

[93] The names of Col. Henry Kerr and Lieutenant Colonel Philips do not appear on the later pay rolls of Wayne's expedition.

[94] Maj. Henry Gaither. He ranked as a lieutenant colonel, later, on Wayne's expedition.

necessity of employing the prest. calm in disiplining, and training the troops under his command for the peculiar service for which they are destined. He is not to be sparing of Powder and lead (in proper and reasonable quantities) to make the Soldiers marksmen.

There is no propriety that I can perceive in giving the Rank of Brigr. to Majr. Sargent;[95] nor do I conceive that Genl. Wilkenson would, or indeed ought, to relinquish his present Commd. I have turned this mattr. in my thoughts but as yet have not been able to hit upon a character to my mind for the Office of Adjutant General. I will think again, and again on the subject, and will inform you of the result.

So long as the vice of drunkenness exists in the Army so long I hope, Ejections of those Officers who are found guilty of it will continue; for that and gaming will debilitate and render unfit for active service any Army whatsoever. I am &c.

P. S. Would Majr. Fish[96] accept the appointment of Adjutt. General with the Rank of Lieutt. Colo.? He strikes me as an eligible character. Colo. Posey[97] also (who wants to be employed) might if ready at his pen make a good one, for in other respects (and I do not know that he is deficient in this) he is said to be an excellent Officer.

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, August 5, 1792.

Sir: Since the date of my last dispatch to you of the 1st: instant, I have received your Letters of the 26 and 30 ulto., and have affixed my signature to the arrangement of Compensations

[95] Maj. Winthrop Sargent.
[96] Maj. Nicholas Fish.
[97] Col. Thomas Posey.

to the Officers of Inspection[98] in consequence of additional latitude give to the President of the United States by the Act of the last Session, entitled "An Act concerning the duties on spirits distilled within the United States."

I have done this on full conviction that the best information the nature of the case would admit, has been obtained at the Treasury to keep the aggregate within the limitations of the Law, and to proportion the Compensations to the services of the respective Officers; presuming also that it appeared essential (from a full view of circumstances, and the benefits likely to be derived from the measure, to the public) that an increase of the Officers of Revenue was really necessary; for I should be unwilling to add to the former establishment, unless the propriety of it was apparent. Unless the Attorney General should be of opinion that the President of the United States has power under the Act of March, 1791, or the subsequent one of last Session, to appoint (in the recess of the Senate) an Inspector of the Survey newly constituted in Maryland, it must remain, as is proposed, under the immediate direction of the Supervisor.

If, after these regulations are in operation, opposition to the due exercise of the collection is still experienced, and peaceable procedure is no longer effectual, the public interest and my duty will make it necessary to enforce the Laws respecting this matter; and however disagreeable this would be to me, it must nevertheless take place.

The Collector was not at Baltimore when I passed through that place; but from the Naval Officer[99] I learnt that the service

[98] This document was signed by the President, August 4, in accordance with the provisions of the act of May 8. It divided the States into districts, as well as fixing the compensations of inspectors. It is entered in full in the "Letter Books" in the *Washington Papers*.

[99] An officer of the Customs service. The name comes down from colonial times. He acts concurrently with the Collector of Customs, assists in estimating duties, countersigns clearances, certifies accounts, etc., etc. He is thus a check on the Collector.

wou'd sustain no loss by the resignation of the Master of the Maryland Revenue Cutter; that the first Mate was a more competent character, and that the general expectation was that he would be appointed to command it. That I might know how far the sentiments of others accorded with those of the Naval Officer, I requested the Supervisor (Mr. Gale)[1] to make enquiry and to inform me of the result; but not having heard from him since, the first Mate (his name I do not recollect) may be notified by you, of my intention to commission him Master so soon as I am provided with Commissions for that purpose, at present I have none. The same may be given to John Adams as first, and Benjamin Gunnison as second Mate of the Revenue Cutter in New Hampshire: and to Ashur Cook first and John Fenley second mate of the New York Cutter. The third Mate for the latter may remain for further enquiry and consideration.

If your information with respect to the proposed characters for the Cutter in New Hampshire is not such as you can entirely rely upon, Mr. Lear who is on the spot might afford you some aid in the investigation of them, or others. I am etc.

P. S. As I have neither time nor inclination to copy the enclosed, I would thank you for having a transcript of it made and sent to me.[2]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, August 5, 1792.

Sir: Since writing to you on the 1st. instt. your letters of the 28th. and 31st. of July have come to hand. The latter, containing an acct. of the fate of Majr. Trueman,[3] fills me with deep

[1] George Gale. He was supervisor of the Maryland district.
[2] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[3] Maj. Alexander Trueman, of the First U. S. Infantry, and his companions had been murdered by the Indians.

concern. The circumstances with which it is related (unless fabricated to answer some purpose to us unknown) will not allow one to doubt the fact. Nor do the Accounts from the Southward wear a much more agreeable aspect. Every exertion therefore on the part of the Government must be used to avert the evils of war which seem to be impending and if these are found to be impracticable then to meet the event with firmness and resolution as a mean to which I hope the recruiting Officers will double their diligence to obtain the men and their vigilance to prevent desertion. The latter is shameful, and call for vigorous pursuits and exemplary punishments.

I hope and do earnestly exhort, the utmost attention on the part of General Wayne and the Officers under him, to fit the men for the Service they are intended. It is indispensably necessary; and I beseech you to suffer no delay in forwarding the supplies which are necessary for the Army.

I wish Governor Blount may have been able to terminate the Conferences, which he was to have had at Nashville about the 25th. of last month with the Cherokees, Chickasaws and Choctaws to the mutual advantage and satisfaction of all the parties concerned, but the difficulty of deciding between lawless settlers and greedy (land) Speculators on one side, and the jealousies of the Indian Nations and their banditti on the other, becomes more and more obvious every day; and these, from the interference of the Spaniards (if the reports we have be true) and other causes wch. are too evident to require specification add not a little to our embarrassments.

I flatter myself, Governor St. Clair will not forget that there are duties which require his attention in the Territory committed to his care although his presence at the trial of Ensign Morgan[4] may not be necessary or proper. But, if an important

[4]Ensign John Morgan, of the First U. S. Infantry.

lawsuit claims his attendance in the State of Pennsylvania in September and it can be dispensed with in his Government, I would not wish to deprive him of the advantage of being present at the trial.

The enclosed letter from People stiling themselves Oneidas or Onondagas came to my hands on friday last. It may not be amiss to make some enquiry into the matter. for oftentimes, it is more easy to prevent an evil, than to redress it after it has happened. I am &c.

*To RICHARD CHICHESTER

Mount Vernon, August 8, 1792.

Sir: On my return home I found your note of the 6th.[5] and Mr. Whiting shewed me the letter you had written to him on the same subject the next day.

When the first came to this place I was from home, and when the second was presented to me I was too much engaged to write myself, but desired Mr. Whiting to inform you of my objections as I should do as soon I had leisure.

I should feel no dis-inclination, Sir, to comply with your request could I be of opinion that any other than my domestic deer were to be found in the skirt of Wood you wish to drive, or that the probability of finding one of these did not greatly exceed that of rousing any other. I have about a dozen deer (some of which are of the common sort) which are no longer confined in the Paddock which was made for them, but range in all my woods, and often pass my exterior fence.

It is true I have scarcely a hope of preserving them long, although they come up almost every day, but I am unwilling by any act of my own to facilitate their destruction; for being as

[5]Dated from Newington, Va.

much affraid of Hounds (on which acct. I parted with all mine) as the wild deer are, and no man living being able, (as they have no collars on) to distinguish them whilst they are running from the wild deer, I might, and assuredly should have them killed by this means. For this reason as it can be no object since Mr. Fairfax, I am informed, is unwilling to have his Woods at Belvoir hunted, I am desirous of preserving mine. I am, etc.[6]

*To JAMES McHENRY

(Private)

Mount Vernon, August 12, 1792.

Dear Sir: Your Letter of the 17th. of July came duly to hand. I could, with pleasure, spend a day in Baltimore on my return to Philadelphia, if time and circumstances would permit, but it is not for me at this moment to say whether either would suit: besides, I shall confess to you candidly, I have no relish for formal and ceremonious engagements and only give into them when they cannot be avoided; among other reasons, because it oftentimes, if not always, proves inconvenient to *some* of the party bestowing, if it is not to the party receivg. the compliment of a public dinner; being, a tax which I am as unwilling to impose, as many are to pay if false delicasy would allow them to express their real sentiments. If it should so happen that I can, conveniently, spend a day in Baltimore as I return it would give me pleasure to dine with yourself and a few other friends

[6] From a photostat of the original in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City.

On August 8 Washington, in collaboration with John Francis Mercer, signed a letter addressed to Francis Deakins and Benjamin W. Jones, requesting them "to fix a valuation on that Woodstock manor, in Montgomery County [Maryland] which shall be assigned as the part of Mrs. Sophia Mercer." A copy by Bartholomew Dandridge is in the *Washington Papers*.

in a social way; and on this footing let the matter rest, as no previous notice of my coming is necessary in this case.

Having begun a letter to you, I will add something to it of public concern, Mr. Potts,[7] the District Attorney of Maryland, has resigned that Office. Who in general estimation is best qualified to fill it? Mr. Robt. Smith has been spoken of. Mr. Hollingsworth[8] has been mentioned, and Mr. Tilghman[9] and Mr. Hammond have also been thought of, but the two last living on the Eastern Shore; and Baltimore, being the principal theatre for the Courts, it would be inconvenient to both those Gentlemen to attend and the appointment no inducement to their removal. Which then of the other two would be most eligable? Would Mr. Smith if he should be deemed *most* so, accept? or is there any other person more preeminently qualified than either of the Gentlemen I have named? Your sentiments, freely given, on these enquiries will much oblige Dear Sir etc.

To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR

Mount Vernon, August 13, 1792.

Sir: The letter herewith enclosed is left open for your *private* perusal, and transmission. Two motives prompt me to this measure, the first is, the christian name of a Mr. Jones, high sheriff of Montgomery County, the person intended to be associated with your brother in the business referred to them in the said letter, was unknown to Colo. Mercer and myself: the second, that before his name should be inserted, I might be ascertained from some person in whom I could place confidence, that Mr. Jones is a gentleman of good character, not interested in fixing the price at more than the land would *actually* sell at

[7] Richard Potts.
[8] Zebulon Hollingsworth.
[9] William Tilghman.

for *ready money;* and who will decide impartially between Colo. Mercer and myself; for it is to be considered by these Gentlemen, that it is to all intents and purposes a ready money bargain.

I made choice of your brother Colo. Francis Deakins, to say what the *Cash* price of the Land shall be. Mr. Jones was the choice of Colo. Mercer, but his name by consent was to be withheld for the reasons above mentioned, as I had never heard of the gentleman until he was brought forward on this occasion.

I do not wish to delay the insertion of his name until I hear from you: on the contrary, if in your opinion Mr. Jones comes under the description I have required, I pray you to add his name to that of your Brothers, in the enclosed Letter, then seal, direct and forward it to the latter, that the business may be brought to a close as soon as it can be with convenience.

I am etc.[10]

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, August 13, 1792.

Dear Sir: Since my last to you dated the 23d. of July, I have received the second Epistle of Govr. Chittendon enclosing a copy of the Lieut. Gov. of Canada's letter to him; but as he does not in that letter acknowledge the receipt of the one which went to him from the Secretary of States office, the motives which suspended an answer to his first letter, still exist, unless he has given the information required of him immediately to yourself. However, that you may have the whole matter before you to answer when you are possessed of all the facts which relate to the subject, I forward the Governor's last letter to me, as I also do that from Colo. Humphreys to you, covered by your's of the 30th ulto. I am etc.[10]

[10] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, August 13, 1792.

Sir: My last to you was dated the 5th. instt. since which I have received your letters of the 4th. 5th. and 7th.; and shall reply to such parts of them as appear to require it.

It is painful to find the recruiting Service advancing so slowly as your last letters indicate. Endeavor to rouse the officers who are engaged in this business, to fresh exertions. The unhappy fate of our messengers[11] is a lamentable proof of Indian barbarity; and a strong evidence of the bad dispositions of at least some of their tribes. This ought to stimulate every nerve to prepare for the worst.

If the banditti, which made the successful stroke on the Station at Nashville could become at without involving disagreeable consequences with the tribes to which they respectively belong, an attempt to cut them off ought by all means to be encouraged; an enterprize judiciously concerted, and spiritedly executed would be less expensive to the General government than keeping up guards of Militia which will always be eluded in the attack, and never be overtaken in a pursuit.

No measures should be left unessayed to treat with the Wabash Indians; nor can the Goods be better applied than in effectuating this desirable purpose; but I think a person of more dignified character than Major Hamtranck should be employed in the negotiation. No idea of purchasing land from them ought to be admitted; for no treaty, or other communications with the Indians have *ever* been satisfactory to them when this has been the subject. The principles, and general out lines of all these treaties ought to be given to the Negotiator, notwithstanding the right of disannulling is reserved to the

[11] The murder of Maj. Alexander Trueman and Brig. Gen. John Hardin.

Government. Illiterate people are not easily made sensible of the propriety, or policy of giving a power, and rejecting what is done under it. These may be contained in Genl. Putnams[12]

General Putnam merits thanks, in my opinion, for his plan, and the sentiments he has delivered on what he conceives to be a proper mode of carrying on the War against the hostile Nations of Indians, and I wish he would continue to furnish them, without reserve in future. But in the present instance, two reasons are so strongly opposed to the measure recommended by him as to render it unadvisable and dangerous one of which, the collision it might occasion, and the consequences thereof, in the pending negotiation with G. Britain he could not be acquainted with; the other, the inadequacy of our force to admit a division, and thereby running the hazard of being beaten in detail by encountering the enemies *whole* strength with part of our own are such as not to be overcome. The other reasons assigned by you are not without weight, but less in degree; for Peace and War are now in balance which will preponderate remains to be known; if the latter (which heaven avert) we must expect to encounter a powerful confederacy, and ought not to put any thing to hazard which can be avoided by military foresight.

I can form no judgment of the object or propriety of establishing the Post on the Muskingham, mentioned in Genl Putnams letter to you of the 9th. of July, as no copy of that letter has been sent to me; equally unable am I to give any opinion on the Speeches and wishes of Fish Carrier, as I know not the contents of them; 20 copies having accompanied the letter of General Capin.[13]

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[12] Gen. Rufus Putnam.

[13] Israel Chapin. He was agent to the Five Nations and was then at Canandaigua.

General Wilkinson has displayed great zeal and ability for the public weal since he came into Service. His conduct carries strong marks of attention, activity and spirit, and I wish him to know the favorable light in which it is viewed. With great esteem I am etc.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, August 15, 1792.

Sir: This morning your letter of the 11th. came to hand, but I have not as yet had time to read, much less to consider, the enclosures therein contained.

Mr. Seagrove's[14] dispatches of the 5th. ulto. enclosing a packet for you, were received at the same time; and about noon his other Letter, of the 27th. was brought to me by Express. The whole, as well those addressed to me, as the others directed to you, are sent forward under cover with this letter by the Express who brought the last.

The extreme and dangerous illness of my Nephew (Major Washington, who has an affection of the Lungs, and for the last two or three days a violent and copious discharge of pure blood from them, by which he is so reduced as to be almost unable to speak) together with the Letters and voluminous references accompanying them, places it out of my power at this moment to pass any sentiment upon Mr. Seagrove's Dispatches, by the bearer; but as far as my Memory and short notes will enable me to recollect the contents of them, it shall be done by the Post on Monday.

On August 13 Washington wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury a routine note in which the following occurs: "It is pleasing to find by the Letter from our Commissioners at Amsterdam, that the credit of the United States remains upon so respectable a footing in the United Netherlands." This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[14] James Seagrove.

My reason for forwarding them without delay, is, that you may, previous to the receipt of any sentiments of mine, give the several matters contained in these despatches and his former communications, the consideration they merit from a comprehensive and comparative view of the whole subject; and, as some parts of it are of an important and delicate nature, it is my request that the Secretary of the Treasury would also consider them attentively; that the proceedings thereon, and answers thereto, may be the result of our joint and deliberate thoughts. If the Secry. of State had been in Philada. I should have called upon him also; for if things be as they are stated in Mr. Seagrove's Letters and the enclosures accompanying them, our affairs in that quarter are critically situated, as they respect the State of Georgia and the southern Indians, and the Ud. States and the Spaniards.

At present, however, I shall add nothing further on these topics; and with respect to your writing (as submitted in your letter of the 11th.) to the *Governor* of Nw. York concerning the complaint exhibited by the Oneidas or Onandagos (I am not certain wch.) against a trader that had been obtruded upon them; and committing the matter, and the regulation of the Trade with the first of these tribes, to the Govr. of that State; I desire you to do in the premises as shall appear best under a full view of the circumstances, and the Laws relating to the arrangement of the intercourse with the Indians; for at present they are not enough in my mind to enable me to give any precise directions concerning the reference.

Who is Mr. Rosecrantz? And under what authority has he attended the councils of the Indians at Buffalo Creek? Subordinate interferences must be absolutely interdicted, or counteraction of the measures of Governmt, perplexity and confusion will inevitably ensue. No person should presume to speak to

the Indians on business of a public nature except those who derive their Authority and receive their instructions from the War Office for that purpose. With esteem and regard, I am &c.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, August 19, 1792.

Sir: In my letter of the 15th. I promised you my sentiments on Mr. Seagroves communications; and though I am not enabled to do it so fully as I could wish, I shall nevertheless give them as fully as I can.

His letters, and the enclosures therein contained. With the evidence in support, go to points, which may be classed under Six heads.

1st. Spanish interference, to prevent the treaty between the United States and the Creek Nation from being carried into effect. To accomplish which, these Indians, together with the Cherokees, Chicasaws and Choctaws, are envited to a grand Council at Pensacola; where, if they will attend, it is intimated to them, they shall be furnished with Arms, Ammunition, and goods of all sorts. An Agent of Spain, (a Captn. Oliver)[15] who is established at little Tallassee in the Creek Nation, and supposed to be acting in concert with McGillivray, has *forbid* their running the line that was established by treaty with these people; promising them the support of Spain against any measures which may be pursued by the U. States, in case of their refusal. And in a word, aided by McGillivray and Panton,[16] is stimulating *all* the Southern Indians to acts of hostilities against the United States; to facilitate which he is distributing goods, and holding talks with the chiefs. Three things, it is said, will be

[15] Pedro or Pierre Olivier.
[16] William Panton, a Pensacola trader.

attempted at the proposed meeting at Pensacola: 1st. to established Posts in the Indian Country. 2d. To fix three Agents amongst them, of whom McGillivray is to be the principal; and 3d. to exclude the Citizens of the United States from having any trade with these Indians. To carry the whole of this plan into effect, it is further said that five Regimts. of about 600 men each and a large quantity of Ordnance and Stores are actually arrived from old Spain, and the like number of Troops are expected from the Havanna; and suspns. are alive, that the Capture of Bowles,[17] was a preconcerted scheme between the Spanh. Govr. and himself.

2d. The turbulant disposition of the Settlers on the Western frontier of Georgia, and their endeavors (as appear by the declaration of Colo. Alexander, and others which could be adduced), to oppose the measures of the General Government; and to bring on a War between the United States and the Creek Nation; with the nefarious means practiced by them to accomplish this project and the effect it has had upon the latter; who are affraid, though generally well-disposed towards the U. States and in all their public talks have given strong assurances of their intention to execute the treaty, to meet at the Rock landing on the Oconee in the vicinity of these characters.

3d. His conditional engagement to meet the lower Creeks on the head of St. Mary's River in November next. His opinion that with more extensive powers, and a larger field to display in, he should be able, not only to counteract the unprovoked interference of the Spaniards by keeping the Indians in our Interest, but could even engage them to Act for us, if circumstances should make it desirable; but to do this he must be furnished with goods, and be authorised to distribute them as occasions

[17] Bowles was seized by McGillivray. McGillivray turned him over to the Spanish, who sent him to Spain.

should require. That but for his endeavors to support the authority of McGillivray, and to reinstate him in the good opinion of his Nation who began to see into his views, and nine tenths of it to dispise him, this might have been in a more progressive state, than it is at present.

4th. The necessity of restricting the licenses of Traders, and passes to people of other descriptions; who, under various pretences (but oftentimes with bad intentions) go into the Indian Villages. And of the expediency, and the advantages which would result, from having proper forms for both, with checks to prevent counterfeits and impositions on the Indians.

5th. The probable consequence of a severe drought, to the Indians, and the policy of relieving them from impending famine.

6th. The intemperance of Major Call.[18] His improper conduct in raising three troops of horse with promise of paymt. from the Genl. Government; leaving a party on the So. Western frontier of Georgia without an Officer, or even a Sergeant. And the Agents opinion of the necessity of a respectable force on the So. Western frontier of that State and the little use of them in their present Stations.

These heads, as well as I can recollect, contain the substance of Mr. Seagroves communications on which I give the following sentiments and observations.

1st. The conduct of Spain in this business is so unprovoked (by any event that has come to my knowledge), so misterious, and so hostile in appearance, that although the evidence is strong, and corroborated by a variety of information through a variety of channels, and even confirmed by McGillivray himself, yet the mind can scarcely realise a proceedure so base and inhuman as the encouraging (not only without the exhibition of complaint, but under professions of good neighbourhood

[18] Maj. Richard Call, of the First Regiment of Infantry.

and friendship towards us) a war which must expose helpless women and children to the relentless fury of Savages, and to the cruelties of the Tomahawk and Scalping-knife. But the evidence of their intreigues to set aside the treaty, to exclude the U. States from having trade or intercourse with the Southern Indians, will scarcely admit of a doubt; and there is but too much reason to suspect that McGillivray has an agency in promoting these measures.

My opinion therefore is, that the Commissioners of Spain, in Philadelphia, shd. be informed, delicately, and perhaps informally (until matters can be more fully investigated, or developed) that though we are ready to acquit the Spanish *government* of measures so unfriendly to the U. States, yet that the evidence of these proceedings in some of its Officers, is too strong to admit of a doubt. and of too important a nature to pass over in silence. That it creates serious alarms in the minds of our Citizens in the Southern quarter, and gives much trouble to the Government of the U. States; which has no views incompatible with good faith towards Spain, and with justice and honor towards the Indns.

Something to this effect was written, or spoken to these Gentlemen by the Secretary of State on the first representation of this matter from the Southern Agent for Indian Affairs; but what notice was taken of it by them, or whether any, I do not recollect to have been informed. Enquiry, however, should be made; but whether documents respecting it are to be found in his Office, or are deposited among the private transactions in his own keeping, is uncertain: in the latter case no information can be obtained in time.

2d. My opinion on this head is, that Governor Tellfair should be written to, and informed in delicate, but in firm and une-

quivocal terms: That the United States from a concatination of causes, are so delicately circumstanced as to render Peace in the Southern quarter indispensably necessary, if it be possible to preserve it upon just, and honorable terms. That Government has received information unequivocal in its nature, of designs in some of the frontier Inhabitants of Georgia, not only to *impede,* but absolutely to *oppose* running the line which was agreed upon as a boundary between that State and the Creeks; and, of conduct in some of them, tending to provoke war, rather than to promote peace with these Indians. That it was (and subsequent events have proved it) with great difficulty the boundary then agreed on could be obtained. That now it has become a law of the Land; and if the Indians can be prevailed on to carry it into execution it must be enforced. And lastly, to exhort him, by every motive to peace and good order, that he would use his influence and address to repress all turbulent and illegal proceedings in this behalf, as the consequences cannot fail to be distressing from a contrary conduct.

3d. Although the opinions, and propositions of the Southern Agent ought, in this case, to be received with a due degree of caution, inasmuch as he is removing the theatre of action from Rock landing to his own (or brothers store) at the head of the St. Marys, covering thereby that frontier, where his interest is more immediately affected; building his own consequence upon the ruins of another as occasion and circumstances may require. Acquiring a power to distribute goods (which, tho' limited, and issued under certn. restrictions, may nevertheless be abused). Investing him with more ample power to act from the circumstances of the moment; I say, notwithstanding the liability of abuse in some, or all of these cases; I am of opinion from the circumstances which exist, and press, and from the delay which

would result from references at the distance He is from the seat of the Government, that he ought, as far as I have the power to give them, to be instructed

To-hold a meeting with the Indian *Chiefs* at the time and place mentioned in his letter of the 27th. ulto. and,

That he should, under defined restrictions, have authority given him, to distribute goods as circumstances, and his own judgment shall dictate.

That he ought to counteract the nefarious schemes of Spain by all the influence and address he is master of.

That if, upon further, and more unequivocal proof, McGillivrays duplicity and treachery should appear more evident; that he is, in that case, to destroy, as far as it is in his power, the consequence of that man in the Creek nation; and, as the most effectual step towards it, and serving the U: States, to take, if he can, his place in the Nation.

4th. The propriety of this restrictive proposition is apparent, but to draw the line is difficult. To vest it *solely* (which I believe wd. be the least evil) with the Indian agents, wd. encrease their consequence amazingly, and would, in a manr, give them, if they are indirectly engaged in Trade, a monopoly thereof; and all other intercourse with the Indians: and in the instance before us, would create much jealousy and disgust in the Executive of the State of Georgia. Under this impression of my sentiments, decide as shall appear best, upon a full view of the case. The idea of an engraving with the proposed check, to prevent counterfeit passes and impositions, is a good thought, and merits adoption.

5th. If the Indians should be reduced to the deplorable State which is apprehended, by an Act of Providence which human foresight is unable to avert; It is my opinion that we ought, if they exhibit signs of good dispositions towards us, as well from

motives of policy as those of humanity, to afford them relief. But the power of the Executive to do this, the state of the treasury, the extent of the evil, and the consequences of giving to one nation and not to all, if it should be asked, are matters to be considered before any explicit assurance is given, that Supplies will be granted.

6th. There can be no doubt of the propriety of bringing Major Call before a Genl. Court Martial for his intemperate conduct, for authorising the raising of three troops of Horse at the expence of the Union (unless as commanding officer he was instructed or empowered to do it; of which I have no recollection), and for leaving a party of Soldiers on the So. Westn. frontier without an Officer, or even a sergeant to comd. and provide for them.

As to the necessity of having a respectable force on the South Western frontier of Georgia, and of the little use of those on the more western part of the State no reasons are assigned for either, by which a judgment can be formed; and havg. no accurate map of that Country with me, I am unable to give any other sentimt. on either of these points, than that (for the reason which has been given under another hd.) this measure should be decided on with cautn.

I do not give these opinions, or any one of them as decisive, or as directions to be implicity followed; because that would render deliberation, and the request contained in my letter of the 15th, nugatory. They are given as crude and undigested first thoughts, only; to be closely examined, compared and combined with other information which may be found in the public Offices, and the letters and Instructions, draughted accordingly.

Let these (except the communication if any to the Comrs. of Spain) pass through my hands unsealed. I am persuaded there

will be no delay on acct. of disapprobation, and consequent alterations. The Express not expecting (as he says) to have proceeded further than Mount Vernon, will want a supply of money to take him back, to be accounted for with the Indian Agent. He has already received two guineas from me.

I presume Mr. Seagrove would wish to be placed upon some more permanent establishment with respect to his pay; but if there be any doubt of my power to fix this, and to render his Office more stable, matters (with assurances that his Services will neither pass unnoticed, or unrewarded) must remain as they are until the meeting of Congress: and as he appears to have acted with zeal and intelligence, he ought to be informed of the satisfaction his conduct has given; and to be requested in a particular, and pointed manner, to have someone or more persons in whom entire confidence can be placed (as well in their abilities, as fidelity) to attend the meeting at Pensacola, to watch the motions of Oliver, and to be informed precisely and accurately, of the Spanish movements in both East and West Florida. Money (reasonably bestowed) must not be spared to accomplish these objects.

What is become of the Surveyor Ellicott, and what is proper to be done with him? he ought not to be retained in that Country at a *certain* expence, awaiting a very *uncertain* event.

I did not think of it when I was writing my letter of the 15th. but now request, that the Attorney General may be called on to aid with his sentiments in the several matters which are referred for your consideration and decision.

Not having thought of any character more eligable for Adjutant General than Majr. Fish, I request that he may be sounded, or even directly applied to. Should he be indisposed to the Office, some other must be appointed without delay. With esteem and regard I am &c.

To JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Mount Vernon, August 20, 1792.

Dr. Sir: Your Letter of the 26 ulto. enclosing one from Mr. Barclay, containing the Petition of our prisoners in Algiers, came duly to hand. Everything that my powers and means will enable me to do consistent with justice and policy, shall not be wanting to the relief of these unfortunate captives; and I would fain hope they will not be ineffectually employed. With sincere esteem and affectionate regard, I am etc.[19]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, August 22, 1792.

Sir: This will merely inform you that your letter of the 10th. with it's enclosure, and that of the 11th. Inst: have been duly received; and that if the Regulations of your Department, mentioned in the former, are carried strictly into execution, the most happy consequences, it is to be hoped, will result from them. I am etc.[19]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, August 22, 1792.

Dear Sir: In my letter of the 15th. I acknowledged the receipt of yours of the 11th.; since which your dispatches of the 16th. are come to hand, and convey but a gloomy prospect of peace with the Indians, in either hemisphere, but show the necessity of preparing more vigorously if possible for the dernier resort. That the Western Indians are stimulated to acts of hostility on one side, and every mean which can be devised to set aside the

[19] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

treaties wch. exist between the Southern Indians and the U. States, and to encourage the former to break with us on the other admits of no doubt in my mind; and that it may be a concerted plan between certn. Powers to check the growth of this rising Country, is far from improbable, diabolical as it may seem.

The enclosure of Genl. Putnams letter of the 9th. of July, enables me (which I could not do before) to form some idea of his proposition to establish a Post on the Muskingham; and, though I shall give no decided opinion on *this* particular case, my sentiments, generally, with respect to Posts, are not changed, and are shortly these, that except for the preservation of Stores, and the security of convoys upon a communin. they are of no use but to protect the people within them; for unless the Garrison is of such strength, and can detach in such force, as to bid defiance to the enemy it is always cooped up. Except for the purposes I have mentioned, of what advantage are Forts Hamilton, St. Clair and Jefferson? The strength of Stationary parties are soon discovered by the Indians and when discovered, are liable to be cut off, unless they confine themselves *solely* to the defence of the Post; and of what avail would this be on the Muskingham or elsewhere? Posts can be insulted or avoided at the option of the enemy in a covered Country; but the best vigilence of the most cautious Enemy cannot prevent scouting parties falling on their trail. Besides we shall never be respectable at any point if the Troops are divided, and subdivided for the quietude of particular settlements or neighbourhoods: nor will they ever be disciplined, and under due subordination whilst they are scattered over the Country in small parties under Subaltern Officers; except when they are employed in ranging, which is an essential part of their military educatn. in the Service for which they are designed.

If all the measures which have been pursued by Governmt. to convince the hostile Indians of the just and honorable intentions the U. States towards them should prove ineffectual we may certainly calculate upon a powerful opposition from their Combind force; in which case, we shall not only be unprepared to penetrate their Country, this Year, but there appears to me to be very little prospect of doing it early in the next; unless there can be some stimulus to the recruiting Service, and the Officers *absolutely* restrained from enlisting improper men; for I am told, notwithstanding the pointed instructions which have been issued to them on this head, that *boys* in *many instances,* and the *worst miscreants* in others are received: to the last of which may be attributed the number of desertions that are reported to the War Office. Under this view of the matter, your intimation to Genl Wayne respecting the Chicasaws and the Choctaws was prudent and proper; but I conceive, nevertheless, if a few of each Southern Nation say Six or 8 respectable characters was to visit and remain with the army as long as should be agreeable to themselves. Be well fed, cloathed, and in all respects treated with attention and kindness, it would be an effectual inducement to the coming of the number that might be required next year?

I perceive by Mr. Belli's[20] letter that the difference between supplying the Troops with their Rations by Contract, and by a purchasing Commy. must be very great indeed, although he has not given the Wages, and other charges of the latter gentry. I am of opinion that the difference in favor of the latter will be found from the nature of things much greater on the exterior than it would be in the interior Country; and as the public pay for all lost provisions (by the enemy) is at the expence of Stores, Guards &ca. it is a matter worthy of serious investigation and

[20] John Belli, deputy quartermaster general, United States Army.

consequent decision. Consult therefore with the Secretary of the treasury, and act as the result shall appear best.

The *hair* must have *stood* on Major *S*——[21] *head,* and a *stake* full in his view, when his letter of the 8th. of July was writing to Genl. Wilkinson, or the style of it would certainly have been varied.[22] With esteem and regard I am &c.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Private)

Mount Vernon, August 23, 1792.

My dear Sir: Your letters of the 12th. and 13th came duly to hand, as did that enclosing Mr. Blodgets plan of a Capitol. The latter I forwarded to the Commissioners, and the enclosures of the two first are now returned to you.

I believe we are never to hear *from* Mr. Carmichael; nor *of him* but through the medium of a third person. His ——— I really do not know with what epithet to fill the blank, is, to me, amongst the most unaccountable of all the unaccountable things! I wish much to hear of the arrival of Mr. Short at Madrid, and the result of their joint negotiations at that Court, as we have fresh, and much stronger Representations from Mr. Seagrove of the extraordinary interference of the Spaniards in West Florida, to prevent running the boundary line which had been established by treaty between the United States and the Creeks, of their promising them support in case of their refusal; and of their endeavouring to disaffect the four Southern tribes of Indians towards this Country. In the execution of these projects Seagrove is convinced McGillivray and his partner Panton are embarked, and have become principal agents; and there are

[21] Maj. John Smith, of the First U. S. Infantry.
[22] A long extract from Smith's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

suspicions entertained, he adds, that the Capture of Bowles was a preconcerted measure between the said Bowles and the Spaniards. That the former is gone to Spain (and to Madrid I think) is certain. That McGillivray has removed from little Tellassee to a place he has within, or bordering on the Spanish line. That a Captn. Oliver, a Frenchman, but an Officer in a Spanish Regiment at New Orleans, has taken his place at Tellassee and is holding talks with the Chiefs of the several Towns in the Nation. And that every exertion is making by the Governor of West Florida to obtain a full and general meeting of the Southern Tribes at Pensicola, are facts that admit of *no doubt.* It is also affirmed that five Regiments of about 600 men each, and a large quantity of Ordnance and Stores arrived lately at New Orleans, and that the like number of Regiments (but this can only be from report) was expected at the same place from the Havanna. Recent accts. from Arthur Campbell (I hope without *much* foundation) speak of very hostile dispositions in the lower Cherokees, and of great apprehension for the safety of Govr. Blount and Genl. Pickens[23] who had set out for the proposed meeting with the Chicasaws and Choctaws at Nashville, and for the Goods which were going down the Tenessee by Water, for that Meeting.

Our accounts from the Western Indns. are not more favourable than those just mentioned. No doubt remains of their having put to death Majr. Trueman and Colo. Hardin; and the Harbingers of their mission. The report from their grand Council is, that War was, or soon would be, decided on; and that they will admit no Flags. The meeting was numerous and not yet dissolved that we have been informed of. What influence our Indn. Agents may have at it, remains to be known. Hendricks left Buffaloe Creek between the 18th. and 20th. of June,

[23] Gen. Andrew Pickens.

accompanied by two or three of the Six Nations; some of the Chiefs of those Nations were to follow in a few days, only waiting, it was said, for the Caughnawaga Indians from Canada. And Captn. Brandt would not be long after them. If these attempts to disclose the just and pacific disposition of the United States to these people, should also fail, there remains no alternative but the Sword, to decide the difference; and recruiting goes on heavily. If Spain is really intrieguing with the Southern Indians as represented by Mr. Seagrove, I shall entertain strong suspicions that there is a very clear understanding in all this business between the Courts of London and Madrid; and that it is calculated to check, as far as they can, the rapid encrease, extension and consequence of this Country; for there cannot be a doubt of the wishes of the former (if we may judge from the conduct of its Officers) to impede any eclaircissment of ours with the Western Indians, and to embarrass our negotiations with them, any more than there is of their Traders and some others who are subject to their Government, aiding and abetting them in acts of hostilities.

How unfortunate, and how much is it to be regretted then, that whilst we are encompassed on all sides with avowed enemies and insidious friends, that internal dissensions should be harrowing and tearing our vitals. The last, to me, is the most serious, the most alarming, and the most afflicting of the two. And without more charity for the opinions and acts of one another in Governmental matters, or some more infalible criterion by which the truth of speculative opinions, before they have undergone the test of experience, are to be forejudged than has yet fallen to the lot of fallibility, I believe it will be difficult, if not impracticable, to manage the Reins of Government or to keep the parts of it together: for if, instead of laying our shoulders to the machine after measures are decided on, one

pulls this way and another that, before the utility of the thing is fairly tried, it must, inevitably, be torn asunder. And, in my opinion the fairest prospect of happiness and prosperity that ever was presented to man, will be lost, perhaps for ever!

My earnest wish, and my fondest hope therefore is, that instead of wounding suspicions, and irritable charges, there may be liberal allowances, mutual forbearances, and temporising yieldings on *all sides*. Under the exercise of these, matters will go on smoothly, and, if possible, more prosperously. Without them every thing must rub; the Wheels of Government will clog; our enemies will triumph, and by throwing their weight into the disaffected Scale, may accomplish the ruin of the goodly fabric we have been erecting.[24]

I do not mean to apply these observations, or this advice to any particular person, or character. I have given them in the same general terms to other Officers of the Government; because the disagreements which have arisen from difference of opinions, and the Attacks wch. have been made upon almost all the measures of government, and most of its Executive Officers, have, for a long time past, filled me with painful sensations; and cannot fail I think, of producing unhappy consequences at home and abroad.

The nature of Mr. Seagroves communications was such, and the evidence in support of them so strongly corroborative, that I gave it as my sentiment to Genl. Knox that the Commissioners of Spain ought to have the matter brought before them again in the manner it was before, but in stronger (though not in committing) language; as the Government was embarrassed, and its Citizens in the Southern States made uneasy by such proceedings, however unauthorized they might be by their Court.

[24] Noted in Jefferson's *Anas* for Oct. 1, 1792; printed in Jefferson's *Works* (P. L. Ford, editor, Federal edition: 1904), vol. 1, pp. 233, *et seq.*

I pray you to note down, or rather to frame into paragraphs or sections such matters as may occur to you as fit and proper for general communication at the opening of the next Session of Congress, not only in the department of State, but on any other subject applicable to the occasion, that I may, in due time, have every thing before me. With sincere esteem and friendship I am &c.[25]

*To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

(Private)

Mount Vernon, August 26, 1792.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 18th. enclosing answers to certain objections communicated to you in my letter of the 29th. Ulto. came duly to hand; and although I have not, at yet, from a variety of causes, been able to give them the attentive reading I mean to bestow, I feel myself much obliged by the trouble you have taken to answer them; as I persuade myself, from the full manner in which you appear to have taken up the Subject, that I shall receive both satisfaction and profit from the perusal.

Differences in political opinions are as unavoidable as, to a certain point, they may, perhaps, be necessary; but it is exceedingly to be regretted that subjects cannot be discussed with temper on the one hand, or decisions submitted to without having the motives which led to them improperly implicated on the other: and this regret borders on chagrin when we find that men of abilities, zealous patriots, having the same *general* objects in view, and the same upright intentions to prosecute them, will not exercise more charity in deciding on the opinions and actions of one another. When matters get to such lengths, the

[25] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

natural inference is, that both sides have strained the Cords beyond their bearing, and, that a middle course would be found the best, until experience shall have decided on the right way, or, which is not to be expected, because it is denied to mortals, there shall be some *infallible* rule by which we could *fore-judge* events.

Having premised these things, I would fain hope that liberal allowances will be made for the political opinions of each other; and instead of those wounding suspicions, and irritating charges, with which some of our Gazettes are so strongly impregnated, and cannot fail if persevered in, of pushing matters to extremity, and thereby to tare the Machine asunder, that there might be mutual forbearances and temporizing yieldings *on all sides.* Without these I do not see how the Reins of government are to be managed, or how the Union of the States can be much longer preserved.

How unfortunate would it be if a fabric so goodly, erected under so many Providential circumstances, and in its first stages, having acquired such respectability, should from diversity of sentiments or internal obstructions to some of the acts of Government (for I cannot prevail on myself to believe that these measures are as yet the deliberate acts of a determined party) should be harrowing our vitals in such a manner as to have brought us to the verge of dissolution. Melancholy thought! But one at the same time that it shows the consequences of diversified opinions, when pushed with too much tenacity, it exhibits evidence also of the necessity of accommodation, and of the propriety of adopting such healing measures as may restore harmony to the discordant members of the Union, and the Governing powers of it.

I do not mean to apply this advice to any measures which are passed or to any particular character; I have given it in the same

general terms to other Officers of the Government. My earnest wish is, that balsam may be poured into *all* the wounds which have been given, to prevent them from gangrening and from those fatal consequences which the community may sustain if it is with held. The friends of the Union must wish this; those who are not, but wish to see it rended, will be disappointed, and all things I hope will go well.

We have learnt through the medium of Mr. Harrison to Doctr. Craik, that you have some thoughts of taking a trip this way. I felt pleasure at hearing it, and hope it is unnecessary to add that it would be considerably encreased by seeing you under this roof; for you may be assured of the sincere and Affecte. regard of yours, &c.

PS. I pray you to Note down whatever may occur to you, not only in your own department but other matters also of general import that may be fit subjects for the Speech at the opening of the ensuing Session.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, August 26, 1792.

Sir: I have recd. your Letter of the 17th. inst; with it's enclosure from Genl. Wayne. Whatever Genl. Wayne may require towards the equipmt. of his troops for the service for wch. they are designed, provided a compliance therewith be authorised by Law, I think had better be granted. powder, in particular, precisely such as he desires, I would furnish him with in order that there may be no room for complaint here after on that score; at the same time I must confess that I am no friend to his proposal with respect to enlarging the touch holes; for part of the force of the powder must be expended that way, and when the musket gets a little foul, it may not communicate with the

pan. It would certainly be better to employ a little more time in loading, where every shot ought to be well and deliberately aimed.

Orders or advertisements, which are intended to be put in the public Gazettes, ought to be well weighed and digested before they are inserted, as they will not only appear in all parts of Europe, but may be handed to the enemy. To publish beyond the limits of the army, or the vicinity of it, the dastardly behaviour of one's own Troops, is not a very pleasant thing.

Concerning his idea of having a Brand,[26] I have great doubts, both as to the legality and policy of the measure; the bad impression it may make in the country, may considerably outweight the good effects it may produce in the army.

Printed blank Descriptions is to me an *Irishism;* for the true meaning of wch. I am at a loss, and which requires an explanation. I am &c.[27]

*To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

(Private)

Mount Vernon, August 26, 1792.

My dear Sir: The purpose of this letter is merely to acknowledge the receipt of your favors of the 5th.[28] and 13th. instt., and

[26] For the forehead of deserters.

[27] The draft is in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge.

[28] Randolph's long letter of this date is in the *Washington Papers.* In it he discusses the political situation of the United States and urges Washington to serve a second term. Among many important statements in that letter are these: "It is much to be regretted, that the judiciary, in spite of their apparent firmness in annulling the pension-law, are not, what some time hence they will be, a resource against the infractions of the constitution, on the one hand, and a steady asserter of the fœderal rights, on the other. So crude is our judiciary system, so jealous are state-judges of their authority, so ambiguous is the language of the constitution, that the most probable quarter, from which an alarming discontent may proceed, is the rivalship of those two orders of judges. . . . the precedent, fixed by the condemnation of the pension-law, if not reduced to its precise principles, may justify every constable in thwarting the laws. In this threatening posture of our affairs, we must gain time, for the purpose

to thank you for the information contained in both without entering into the details of either.

With respect, however, to the interesting subject treated on in that of the 5th., I can express but one sentiment at this time, and that is a wish, a devout one, that whatever my ultimate determination shall be, it may be for the best. The subject never recurs to my mind but with additional poignancy; and from the declining State in the health of my Nephew, to whom my concerns of a domestic and private nature are entrusted it comes with aggrivated force. But as the allwise disposer of events has hitherto watched over my steps, I trust that in the important one I may soon be called upon to take, he will mark the course so plainly, as that I cannot mistake the way. In full hope of this, I will take no measure, yet a while, that will not leave me at liberty to decide from circumstances, and the best lights, I can obtain on the Subject.

I shall be happy in the mean time to see a cessation of the abuses of public Officers, and of those attacks upon almost every measure of government with which some of the Gazettes are so strongly impregnated; and which cannot fail, if persevered in with the malignancy they now teem, of rending the Union asunder. The Seeds of discontent, distrust, and irritations which are so plentifully sown, can scarcely fail to produce this effect and to Mar that prospect of happiness which perhaps never beamed with more effulgence upon any people under the Sun;

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of attracting confidence in the government by an experience of its benefits, and that man alone, whose patronage secured the adoption of the constitution, can check the assaults, which it will sustain at the two next sessions of congress. . . . Should a civil war arise, you cannot stay at home. And how much easier will it be, to disperse the factions, which are rushing to this catastrophe, than to subdue them, after they shall appear in arms? It is the fixed opinion of the world, that you surrender nothing incomplete. I am not unapprized of the many disagreeable sensations, which have laboured in your breast, But let them spring from any cause whatsoever, of one thing I am sure, (and I speak this from a satisfactory inquiry lately made) that if a second opportunity shall be given the people of showing their gratitude, they will not be less unanimous than before."

and this too at a time when all Europe are gazing with admiration at the brightness of our prospects. and for what is all this? Among other things, to afford Nuts for our transatlantic, what shall I call them? Foes!

In a word if the Government and the Officers of it are to be the constant theme for News-paper abuse, and this too without condescending to investigate the motives or the facts, it will be impossible, I conceive, for any man living to manage the helm, or to keep the machine together. But I am running from my text, and therefore will only add assurances of the Affecte. esteem and regard with which I am &c. [H.S.P.]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, August 31, 1792.

Sir: The enclosed Letter was written agreeably to the date, but, by an accident, was omitted when my other letters were sent to the post office on Monday last; since wch. 'till yesterday afternoon, I have been absent from home.

On my return, amongst other Letters I found the enclosed from the Inspector of the 5th. survey in the State of North Carolina. The picture drawn by him of the temper of the people in the District entrusted to his Inspection, is a very unpleasant and disagreeable one. It is forwarded for your consideration, and opinion of the measures necessary to be taken in the premises; particularly whether the Governor of that State ought to be written to on the subject; and in that case, to desire that you would draft a letter proper for the occasion.

Your Letter of the 27. instant is also before me; and my opinion on the points therein submitted is, that part of the Loan lately obtained in Holland, should be applied in discharge of the Debt due to the foreign Officers agreeably to the Authority

given by the act alluded to in your letter, and because the interest of the United States requires it to be done; and that it ought to be paid in a mode which shall exempt the parties from the loss which would attend the depreciation of Assignats, without, however, occasioning loss to the United States: The first is an act of justice due to the officers, and the latter an act of prudence becoming the Government. I am etc.[29]

To JAMES McHENRY

(Private)

Mount Vernon, August 31, 1792.

Dear Sir: The characters given of Messrs. Smith and Hollingsworth[30] by you, comports very much with those I have received from others, and therefore of the two, the preference is given to the former. But as neither stand upon such high grounds as Mr. Tilghman or Mr. Hammond, and it is my duty as well as inclination to fill offices with the most suitable characters I pray you to make all the indirect enquiry you can whether either of the last named Gentlemen would accept; and, as the nature of the Case seems to require, would make Baltimore the place of residence.

If the result is unfavourable, be so good as to cause the enclosed to be delivered.[31] This case requires a little delicacy in the management and I am persuaded it will receive it from you. I am, etc.[32]

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[29] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[30] Zebulon Hollingsworth. He was nominated November 19 for District Attorney of Maryland and confirmed by the Senate November 21.

[31] The enclosure was the appointment of Robert Smith to succeed District Attorney Potts of Maryland. Smith declined.

[32] From a copy in the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, September 3, 1792.

Sir: Since my last to you, dated the 26th of Augt. I have received your dispatches of the 23d; 26th; and 28th; of the same month; and it is probable, the Messenger who will carry this and other letters to the Post Office, will bring me the result of your deliberations on the communications from Georgia.

I am exceedingly glad to find by the copy of Genl. Putnams letter to you, that he had resolved to proceed from Fort Washington to Post Vincennes, even if no other good should result from it, than to shew that nothing in the compass of the Executive has been unessayed to convince the hostile Indians of the pacific and equitable measure and intentions of the Government of the Union towards them. I shd. have been unwilling (as I mentioned to you in my letter of the —[33] of Augt.) to have entrusted so important a negotiation to Majr. Hamtracht[34] although the business might have been transacted with zeal and ability by that Officer.

I hope the party of Seneca Indians when their services were dispensed with by Lieutt. Jeffers[35] were rewarded, and went off well satisfied. This, as far as it can be accomplished by reasonable attentions and proper compensation, ought *always* to be the case.

The conduct of the Waggoners, in dropping the public stores with the transportation of which they are charged, along the Road to Pittsburgh, ought to undergo the strictest scrutiny; and in cases of culpability, to meet with severe punishment by way of example to others.

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[33] August 13, *q. v.*
[34] Hamtramck.
[35] Lieut. John Jeffers, of the First U. S. Infantry.

I have no objection to Peter Van Allans[36] filling the Vacancy which has been occasioned by the resignation of Lieutt. Schuyler[37] and shd. be glad to know the determination of Major Fish as soon as he has formed and you are made acquainted with it. With esteem and regard. I am etc.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 3, 1792.

My dear Sir: I thank you sincerely for the medicine you were so obliging as to send for my Nephew, and for the sympathetic feeling you express for his situation. Poor fellow! Neither, I believe will be of any avail. Present appearances indicate a speedy dissolution. He has not been able to leave his bed except for a few moments to sit in an Arm Chair since the 14th. or 15th. of last month. The paroxysm of the disorder seems to be upon him and death or a favourable turn to it must soon follow.

I pray you to turn your thoughts to the communications which may be necessary for me to refer to from the War Department at the *opening* of the next Session; that such documents as shall be adjudged proper for the occasion may be prepared by *that time* for both houses of Congress; and if any thing else of a *general* nature should occur to you I would thank you for noting it for consideration that nothing proper may escape communication.

I learn through the medium of a letter from the Auditor to his father in law, Doctr. Craik, that Colo. Hamilton has it in contemplation to visit this part of the Country in the course of

[36] Peter Van Alen, lieutenant of the Artillery.
[37] Lieut. Dirck Schuyler, of the Artillery.

this, or the beginning of next month. Should this event take place and you could make it convenient to be of the party it will be unnecessary I hope for me to say that I should be very glad to see you under this roof. It is fair, however, to add, that this part of the Country has experienced more sickness *this* summer than is recollected to have happened for many years; first with the flux, and then with intermittant and remittant fevers. happily few deaths have been the consequence of either. The former is now over but the latter is still prevalent. Both the French and British Ministers talked of coming this way. Should they still continue in the same mind I should be glad if by indirect enquiries you could ascertain and let me know the time, or times (if they come seperately) they may be expected. My present intention, if the peculiar situation into which my affairs are thrown by the illness of my Nephew will not necessarily delay it, is to take the Sale of Lots in the Federal City in my way to Philadelphia; and this Sale is appointed to be on the 8th. of October. I am &c.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, September 3, 1792.

Dear Sir: The letters from the British Minister,[38] the Consul General of Prussia, and Mr. Knox,[39] which you sent to me for perusal, are returned under this cover; and the answers to the two last were forwarded to Mr. Taylor,[40] although I did not perfectly comprehend an expression in the one to Mr. Palaske.[41] With great esteem etc.[42]

[38] George Hammond.
[39] William Knox, United States Consul at Dublin, Ireland.
[40] George Taylor, jr., chief clerk, Department of State.
[41] Charles Godfrey Paleske (Palaske), Consul General of Prussia to the United States.
[42] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.
Press copies of Jefferson's letters to Paleske and Knox, Aug. 19, 1792, are in the *Jefferson Papers*.

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 3, 1792.

Dear Sir: Since my last to you dated the 26th. of Augt., I have been favored with your Letter bearing the same date, covering Mr. Bordely's[43] "Sketches on rotations of Crops." Permit me thro' you to offer him my sincere thanks for this instance (among many others) of his politeness. The subject is interesting and important, and as soon as I have leisure, for at present I am fully occupied, I will give it an attentive perusal.

You add, "no incidents in the political line attract any notice, except those which relate to the supposed temper of Virginia, and the measures projected at the next Session. Of these you must have heard, and therefore I omit them."

The truth is, I go out no where; and those who call upon me, observe a silence which leaves me in ignorance in all these matters. You would oblige me therefore by an explanation of the above paragraph. Colo. Bassett is here, he came up this day week to see my poor Nephew, who I suppose is near his end; but was seized hand and foot, with the Gout on the road, and has not been out of his bed since; nor in a condition to communicate what he knows, if he was disposed to do it. I am etc.[44]

To JAMES SEAGROVE

Mount Vernon, September 4, 1792.

Sir: It was necessary for the express, that brought your despatches to me, to proceed to the War Office with my sentiments thereupon. Enclosed you have the result. To these I have noth-

[43] John Beale Bordley.
[44] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

ing to add, but my entire approbation of the zeal and intelligence with which you have conducted matters with the Creek Indians; my good wishes for the perfect restoration of your health, and my hope that it may comport with your inclination and views to superintend that business, agreeably to the plan suggested by the Secretary of War.

As I do not perceive, that any mention is made of it in the letter from the Secretary of War to you, it may not be amiss to inform you, that one hundred dollars have been advanced to Mr. Jas. Jordan, to defray the expences of his journey; for which he must account to you. With esteem, I am &c.[45]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, September 7, 1792.

Sir: The last post brought me your letter of the 1st instant, with the enclosures respecting the disorderly conduct of the Inhabitants of the Western Survey of the District of Pennsylvania, in opposing the execution of what is called the Excise Law; and of the insults which have been offered by some of them to the Officers who have been appointed to collect the duties on distilled spirits agreeably thereto.

Such conduct in *any* of the Citizens of the United States, under *any* circumstances that can well be conceived, would be exceedingly reprehensible; but when it comes from a part of the Community for whose protection the money arising from the Tax was principally designed, it is truly unaccountable, and the spirit of it much to be regretted.

The preliminary steps taken by you in ordering the Supervisor of the District to repair to the Survey where these disorders prevail, with a view to ascertain in person "the true state

[45] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

of the Survey; to collect evidences respecting the violences that have been committed, in order to a prosecution of the offenders; to ascertain the particulars as to the Meeting which appears to have been held at Pittsburg; to encourage the perseverance of the officers in their duty, and the well disposed inhabitants in discountenancing such violent proceedings &c. &c."[46] are prudent and proper, and I earnestly wish they may have the desired effect. But if, notwithstanding, opposition is still given to the due execution of the Law, I have no hesitation in declaring, if the evidence of it is clear and unequivocal, that I shall, however reluctantly I exercise them, exert all the legal powers with which the Executive is invested, to check so daring and unwarrantable a spirit. It is my duty to see the Laws executed: to permit them to be trampled upon with impunity would be repugnant to it; nor can the Government longer remain a passive spectator of the contempt with which they are treated. Forbearance, under a hope that the Inhabitants of that Survey would recover from the delirium and folly into which they were plunged, seems to have had no other effect than to encrease the disorder.

If it shall be the Attorney General's opinion, under a full consideration of the case (adverting, as I presume he will, as well to the Laws and Constitution of Pennsylvania, as to those of the United States) that the Meeting which appears to have been held at Pittsburg was illegal, and the members of it indictable; and it shall further appear to you from such information as you may be able to obtain, from a comparative view of all circumstances that it would be proper to bring the matter

[46] As shown by Hamilton's letter of September 1, as printed in Hamilton's *Works* (J. C. Hamilton edition, New York: 1851), vol. 4, p. 285, the quotation properly ends with the word "officers," a line above. The original letter is not now found either in the *Washington Papers* or the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

before the Circuit Court to be holden at York town in October next, you have all the sanction and authority I can give to do it. I am &c.[47]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, September 7, 1792.

Sir: Your letters of the 31st. of Augt. and first of the present month, have been duly received. The enclosures in the first for Govr. Tellfair and Mr. Seagrove have been approved, and forwarded. Those of the Second I have read, but will give them a second and more attentive consideration before I express any decisive opinion upon General Waynes Plan for carrying on the War.

My first impression of it, however, is, that it differs immaterially, if in any thing from the basis, or principal features of the one that has been, and now is pursuing; except in the establishing of a Post on Big Beaver Creek, and in the two desultory strokes to be aimed at Sandusky and St. Joseph. The latter will be *right,* or *wrong,* according to the actual State of things at *those places* at the time it is proposed to make them, (to be ascertained from indubitable information) and by a comparison of the hazard wch. must be run of failure with the advantages to be gained in case of Success. In all other respects, I see little more than the Incidents and detail of the Original Plan; for if *all* the pacific overtures are rejected by the hostile Indians, and the Troops are neither in force nor discipline to make a forward movemt. the ensuing fall, it follows of course that it must be delayed until the Spring; and every exertion used in the establishment of Posts magazines &ca. for as early an expedition as high Waters and the state of the forage will permit at that

[47] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

period. If Genl Wayne had any doubt of this and his power to arrange, and effectuate these, you have, I perceive by the copy of your letter to him, very properly removed it; and it is my wish and desire that his exertion to accomplish the objects he has contemplated, may be commensurate to the importance of them.

With respect to the proposition for establishing a Magazine on Big beavr., there is but one objection to it in my mind, admitting that it does not look forward to the event contemplated by Genl. Wayne (provided the position is judiciously chosen) and that is, the multiplication of Posts; for it has, for a great length of time, been my opinion that a strong Post at that place would cover much more effectually the Western frontier of Pennsylvania and the Northern parts of Virginia, than a Post at Pittsburgh; but habit, and the deep root the latter has taken, to which may be added its being a convenient deposit, and a place of more safety with a *small* garrison (on Acct. of its Inhabitants) than any other, has restrained my mentioning of it before. But in case of a movement towards Sandusky one there does, in that design, become important.

If, upon more mature consideration of the ideas submitted by Genl. Wayne, I should find cause to change the sentiments herein expressed, the alterations shall be communicated in my next; if not, you will consider what I have here said as the *substance* of my opinion thereupon. Before the (grain) forage is purchased *above* for the Posts *below,* it ought to be ascertained from whence (including the transportation to Fort Washington) it can be had cheapest. I have understood, as well from others (who are just from that Country) as from the letter of Mr. Belli, that the Crops of Grain in Kentucky are astonishingly great. It would have an odd appearance therefore, and

I dare say would give much dissatisfaction to the people of that State, to have the forage carried down the River from the Neighbd. of Pittsburgh, unless it is obtained on *better* terms than they will supply it.

A caution both to Genl. Wayne (and through him to Genl Wilkinson) ought to be given, to guard *effectually,* the Hay at the Outposts. Unless this is done, the Indians will, most assuredly, set fire to it before the Spring; and to do it without having the stacks in the range of their defences, or as a cover to the approaches of the enemy, is no easy matter. I am &c.

If the enclosed represents a fact the case merits attention.

To JOHN CHURCHMAN

Mount Vernon, September 10, 1792.

Sir: Your Letter of the 5th. did not get to my hands until the 8th; and this is the first opportunity that has since offered to give the receipt of it an acknowledgement. I have enclosed you

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On September 7, Bartholomew Dandridge furnished the following statement to Dr. James Craik: "Agreeably to your request, I shew'd Mr. Campbell's Letter to you, to the President of the U. S. who appeared to be exceedingly surprised at the Contents, and at the liberty wch. had been taken in making declarations for him which he had never made for himself. He added, that to the best of his recollection, he never exchanged a word with Bushrod Washington on the subject of Colo. Mercer's Election, much less to have given a decided opinion of his fitness or unfitness to represent the District for which he is a Candidate. That such a measure would have been inconsistent with the rule he has prescribed to himself, and which he has invariably observed, of not interfering directly nor indirectly with the suffrages of the people in the choice of their Representatives; and said he wished that Bushrod Washington might be called upon to certify what, or whether any conversation of the kind ever passed between them on this subject, as it was desired that everything might stand upon it's proper foundation.

"The above is what Doctr. Craik was authorised to say, or write to Mr. Fendal, on the subject of a letter from Mr. Campbell to him, signifying that Colo. [John F.] Mercer or some of his friends were reporting that I had, to Bushrod Washington, declared that he was the best Representative in Congress, and that it was my earnest wish that he should be rechosen by the State of Maryland."

The last paragraph was signed by Washington.

From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.* (See Washington's letter to John Francis Mercer, Sept. 26, 1792, *post.*)

two short letters of introduction to our Ministers at the Courts of London and Paris.[48] I wish your voyage may answer your own expectation, and that mankind may receive benefit from the discovery, being etc.[49]

*To DAVID STUART

Mount Vernon, September 10, 1792.

Received from David Stuart Esqr. the Sum of Three hundred and Seventy two pounds Virginia Curr on acct. of the Annuity.[50] [N.Y.P.L.]

*To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, September 10, 1792.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 11th. Ulto. was received in the usual course of the Post. That the City of Phila. should again be visited by that dreadful malignant fever which has made such impressions upon it heretofore, is matter of sore regret and that it should baffle more and more the skill of the Physicians add poignancy to the misfortune.

The only intention of giving you the trouble to receive a letter from me at this time is to request that the one which accompanies it may be safely delivered to the President of the Board of Managers.[51] with esteem, I am, etc.[52]

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[48] The letters of introduction to Thomas Pinckney and Gouverneur Morris are dated September 10 and are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. The original of the letter to Morris is in the Huntington Library.

[49] The original of this letter is in the possession of Edwin Churchman of New York.

[50] This annuity, or rent, as it is sometimes called in Washington's accounts, was in accordance with an agreement with the late John Parke Custis respecting the dower rights in certain lands in Williamsburg and elsewhere belonging to the estate of Daniel Parke Custis.

[51] A copy or draft of Washington's letter to the board of managers is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

[52] From the original in the National Museum, Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pa.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, September 15, 1792.

Dear Sir: This letter goes Express,[53] to obtain the signature of the Secretary of State to the enclosed Proclamation.[54] The reasons for sending it in this manner, are, to avoid the circuitous rout by Richmond, and the delay it might meet with by the Post; not having reached my hands until this morning, too late for the Mail of this day, nor in time for any other before Tuesday next; and because it is unknown to me, when one will set out from Richmond for Charlottesville.

If good is to result from the Proclamation, no time is to be lost in issueing of it; as the opposition, to what is called the Excise Law, in the Western Survey of the District of Pennsylvania, is become too open, violent and serious to be longer winked at by Government, without prostrating it's authority, and involving the Executive in censurable inattention to the outrages which are threatened.

I have no doubt but that the measure I am about to take, will be severely criticised; but I shall disregard any animadversions upon my conduct when I am called upon by the nature of my office, to discharge what I conceive to be a duty, and none, in my opinion, is more important, than to carry the Laws of the United States into effect.

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[53] Atwood Violett, of New York, has in his possession the autograph signed instructions to William Gray, who rode express to Charlottesville and delivered this letter to Jefferson on September 18. They read: "Cross at Colchester. Enquire the way to Normand's ford of Rappahanock River. Thence to Charlottsville; but before you get to that place as your business is to deliver to and bring an answer from the Secretary of State; Mr. Jefferson, you will enquire for his Seat of Monticello. Delay no time you can avoid, in bringing back his answer, and in order to obtain it, you must, if he is not at home, go to him. Get a certificate from Mr. Jefferson of the distance you ride by which you will be paid; be here, if possible by, or before Friday Noon, ensuing the date of this."

[54] See Proclamation, Sept. 15, 1792, *post*.

The Secretary of the Treasury; the Secretary of War and the Attorney General, concur in the expediency of the Proclamation; as forbearance seems to have produced no other effect than to spread the evil.

I have *scored* a few words, which possibly may as well be omitted; and if, upon an attentive perusal of the draught, others should appear (which you think might as well be expunged or altered; mark them in *like* manner with a pencil, and I will give due consideration thereto.

Your Note of the 27th. ulto. with the enclosures to Mr. Tayler,[55] were forwarded in the manner you desired, by the first Post after they came to my hands.

With sincere and affectionate regard etc.[56]

PROCLAMATION

September 15, 1792.

Whereas certain violent and unwarrantable proceedings have lately taken place tending to obstruct the operation of the laws of the United States for raising a revenue upon spirits distilled within the same, enacted pursuant to express authority delegated in the constitution of the United States; which proceedings are subversive of good order, contrary to the duty that every citizen owes to his country, and to the laws, and of a nature dangerous to the very being of a government:

And whereas such proceedings are the more unwarrantable, by reason of the moderation which has been heretofore shewn on the part of the government, and of the disposition which has been manifested by the Legislature (who alone have authority to suspend the operation of laws) to obviate causes of objection,

[55] George Taylor (Tayler), jr.

[56] In the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

and to render the laws as acceptable as possible: And whereas it is the particular duty of the Executive "to take care that the laws be faithfully executed;" and not only that the duty, but the permanent interests and happiness of the people require, that every legal and necessary step should be pursued, as well to prevent such violent and unwarrantable proceedings, as to bring to justice the infractors of the laws and secure obedience thereto.

Now therefore I GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the United States, do by these presents most earnestly admonish and exhort all persons whom it may concern, to refrain and desist from all unlawful combinations and proceedings whatsoever having for object or tending to obstruct the operation of the laws aforesaid; inasmuch as all lawful ways and means will be strictly put in execution for bringing to justice the infractors thereof and securing obedience thereto.

And I do moreover charge and require all Courts, Magistrates and Officers whom it may concern, according to the duties of their several offices, to exert the powers in them respectively vested by law for the purposes aforesaid, hereby also enjoining and requiring all persons whomsoever, as they tender the welfare of their country, the just and due authority of government and the preservation of the public peace, to be aiding and assisting therein according to law.[57]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, September 16, 1792.

Sir: Your letter of the 8th, with its enclosures, came duly to hand; and requires but little in reply to it, as your answer to Genl Waynes communications contain every direction which is necessary for his governmt at this time. Whatever may be

[57] From a reproduction of the broadside sold in 1932.

the Attorney General's opinion with respect to the *legality* of calling out Militia by the Governor of Pennsylvania, for supplying the place of the Rangers, it is not an easy matter, under the circumstances which now do and have existed during the Summer, to discover any necessity for the measure; especially if the order was subsequent to *your* solution of *his* queries.

Captn. Brants letter, and the Speech of the Chiefs of the Six Nations to Genl Chapin, is no more than a continuation of the Evidence, which, long since, has established a fact, and left no doubt in my mind, of the causes to which all our difficulties with the Western Indians are to be ascribed; and I am equally clear, that the period is not very distant when this business will assume a less disguised appearance.

Have you received any answer yet from Major Fish respecting the offer that was made him of the Office of Adjutant General?[58] This matter has been too long suspended. With esteem and regd. I am &c.

*To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 16, 1792.

Dear Sir: Your private letter of the 11th. accompanying an Official one of the 9th. came safe, as did your other private letter of the 9th. and I feel myself obliged by the observations contained in, the first respecting the Proclamation.

As the former Proclamations, on similar occasions, have been Countersigned by the Secretary of State, I have, for *that* reason, and for another which has some weight in my mind; thought it best not to depart in *this* instance from the precedent that has

[58] A copy of Nicholas Fish's declination, dated September 7, from Schoharie, N. Y., is in the *Washington Papers*. It was inclosed in Knox's letter to Washington, Sept. 15, 1792.

been set; and therefore, as it cannot (unless unforeseen delays happen) be with-held from you more than Six days longer than if it had been returnd by this days Post, I dispatched, by Express, the Proclamation to Mr. Jefferson for the purpose above md.

I have no doubt but that the Proclamation will undergo many strictures; and as the effect proposed may not be answered by it; it will be necessary to look forward in time to ulterior arrangemts.; and here, not only the Constitution and Laws must strictly govern; but the employing of the regular Troops avoided if it be possible to effect order without their aid; otherwise there would be a cry at once, "The Cat is let out;[59] we now see, for what purpose an Army was raised." Yet, if no other means will effectually answer, and the Constitution and Laws will authorise these they must be used as the Dernier resort.

If you remain in opinion, that it would be advisable for the Presidt. to transmit the Proclamation to the Govrs. of No. and So. Carolina, and to the Govr. of Pennsylvania, I pray you to draught such letters to them, to be forwarded from hence (with Proclamations wch. must also be sent to me) as you may think best calculated to produce the end proposed. I am &c.

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, September 17, 1792.

Sir: Your Letters of the 8 and 9 inst: are received. The letter came to me on Saturday morning by Express, from the Post Office in Alexandria. I gave the Proclamation my signature, and forwarded it in the afternoon of the same day, by a special messenger, to the Secretary of State for his countersign. If no

[59] "Of the Bag" is here crossed out.

unforeseen delay happens, the return of it may be in time for *Friday's* Post, so as to be with you on the Tuesday following.

It is much to be regretted that occurrences of a nature so repugnant to order and good Government should not only afford the occasion, but render such an interference of the Executive indispensably necessary. When these happen, and lenient and temporizing means have been used, and serve only to increase the disorder; longer forbearance would become unjustifiable remissness, and a neglect of that duty which is enjoined on the President. I can have no hesitation therefore, under this view of the case, to adopt such legal measures to check the disorderly opposition which is given to the execution of the Laws laying a duty on distilled spirits, as the Constitution has invested the Executive with; and however painful the measure would be, if the Proclamation should fail to produce the effect desired, ulterior arrangements must be made to support the Laws, and to prevent the prostration of Government.

Were it not for the peculiar circumstances of my family, I would return to the Seat of Government immediately; at any rate I hope to do it in the early part of next month, or before the middle thereof. With esteem &c.[60]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, September 21, 1792.

Sir: Under cover of this Letter you will receive the Proclamation which is just returned to me with the counter signature of the Secretary of State. I have erased the words "dictated by weighty reasons of public exigency," and scored others with a pencil, which you are hereby authorised to take out or retain as you may think best.

[60] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

As the Instrument is drawn I could do no other than fill up one of the blanks with the name of the place at wch. I *now* am; but, as it is to have a general circulation you may decide upon the propriety of this, and alter or let it stand according to your judgment. With esteem etc.[61]

*To GEORGE GALE[62]

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 21, 1792.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 4th. Instt. came duly to hand, but previous to the receipt of it I had been under the necessity of giving the Secy. of the Treasury some direction for the Commd. of the Revenue Cutter of Maryland. I am not less obliged however for the trouble you have been at to obtain the information you gave me on this point.

I would thank you for relating, in as precise terms as you can recollect, what you told me (as I passed through Baltimore) Colo. Mercer had said of my sentiments respecting his Speeches and opinions and conduct in Congress, and the manner in which he had come at or had understood them to be mine. With much esteem etc.[63]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, September 21, 1792.

Dear Sir: I have written but one letter to you since I came to this place; I was on the point of writing a second when yours of the 5th. of August came to my hands informing me of your intention to leave Portsmouth about the first of this month, and

[61] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[62] Formerly Member of Congress from Maryland.
[63] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

expectation of reaching Philadelphia (if no unforeseen delays happened) the 20th. This information arrested my intention, as it was uncertain at what place to direct to you, or, that the letter would reach your hands before it re-verbirated back to that City.

I feel myself much obliged by the information contained in your letters of the 21st. of July and 5th. of August; but as I expect soon to see you I shall only take notice of that part of it which respects a tutor for a few boys, and my ardent wish that you may have been able to succeed in your expectation of getting one. I am more and more persuaded of the utility of the measure; and that without it, the loss to Washington[64] will be irreparable.

I have nothing agreeable of a domestic nature to relate, and I go not abroad to Collect information of any other kind. Poor George! He is, I believe not far from that place, from whence no traveller returns. He is but the shadow of what he was; he has not been out of his room and scarcely from his bed these Six weeks. At times he has intervals of ease which flatter a little, but I have little hope of his Surviving the Winter. This adds not a little to my distress and perplexity on a subject you are already acquainted with, but no more of this, at least for the present.

My family, and this part of the Country are more sickly than they have been since the recollection of the oldest of us; first with the flux (but that did not prevail in my family) and next with intermittant and remittant fevers. all the whites of it, however, have kept up, except William, whose fever is by an Act of his own imprudence.

Not knowing what delays you may have met with on the Road, I have directed Mr. Francis[65] in a letter of this date, to

[64] George Washington Parke Custis.
[65] Samuel Fraunces.

engage Mr. Page's Coach to be here, to accomodate our journey to Philadelphia; for which place I expect to set *out* the 8th. though I may not arrive in that City before the 13th. or 14th. of Oct. The Stage however is to be at this place on the 7th. at Night. If you should be in Philadelphia by the time this letter reaches it, I shall rely on your usual punctuality and exertion to effect this. If the Carriage should not be here before the 8th. the case will not be altered, as I do not expect Mrs. Washington will leave this place before the 9th. The Sale [66] may require my remaining in George-Town one day.

If this letter should find you in Philadelphia, let me know the result of your application to Mr. Page by the first Post after it is received. Our united and best wishes are offered for yourself Mrs. Lear and the Child and with sincere and Affectionate regard etc.

PS. If Mr. Page cannot send his Carriage some other equally convenient if to be had must be sent for our accomodation as it is thereon we depend. [H.L.]

To HUGH WEST

Mount Vernon, September 21, 1792.

Sir: Your Letter of this date is now before me.[67] I am very sorry that your endeavours to be employed in some one of the public Offices in Philada., have been unsuccessful; and hope the business which you have now in contemplation to undertake, may be attended with advantage. if, therefore, I can make it comport with my own numerous calls for money, I will furnish you with the sum requested in your Letter, before my return to Philadelphia.[68] I am etc.[69]

[66] Of lots in Washington, D. C.
[67] West's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.
[68] He requested the loan of $100.
[69] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To JOHN LEWIS

Mount Vernon, September 21, 1792.

Dr. Sir: I have sent your brother Howell to Fredericksburgh to receive from you my moiety of the money which has been paid to you by Mr. Cooper[70] for the Land in Gates County No. Carolina. I expect it will be fully paid, and a statement of the Accots. rendered, by which I can hereafter settle with, and receive whatever may be due for my part, from Mr. Cooper, without giving you any further trouble in the receipt of it, and exact statement of the Agreement, and of the account with him, therefore, becomes necessary in order to enable me to do this. I am etc.[71]

To JAMES McHENRY

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 21 [1792].

Dear Sir: Fearing some accident may have prevented my last (enclosing a letter for Mr. Robt. Smith) from reaching your hands,[72] I take the liberty of giving you the trouble to receive this, requesting to be informed if this be the fact, and if not what has been the result of your enquiries in the business Committed to you.

I have had many applications in favor of Mr. Hollingsworth as a fit character for the Attorney, and lately, one from the District Judge in his behalf. No answer has been given to any of them, awaiting to hear from you first.

With sincere esteem, etc.[73]

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[70] John Cowper (Cooper).

[71] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[72] On October 3 Washington wrote again to McHenry, asking him to hold the letter to Robert Smith in his hands until he (the President) returned to Philadelphia. A copy of this letter is in the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

[73] From a copy in the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, September 24, 1792.

Sir: Your letter of the 15th. instt., with its enclosures, came duly to hand. It is exceedingly to be regretted that all the attempts of Government to bring the hostile Indians acquainted with the real designs of it, (so far as it respects the disputes with them), should be so pointedly marked with misfortune, disappoint [*sic*] or delay. Captn Brants illness, and the sickness and delays of the other Chiefs of the Six Nations, are inauspicious of a favourable result; for much is not to be expected from the single attempt of Captn. Hendricks however zealously he may labour in the Cause of humanity and Peace; and as prest. appearances are so ominious of a continuation of the War, no pains, nor no expence within the bounds of moderation ought to go unessayed to ascertain the nature, extent and strength of the Confederation against which we are to contend; that our measures may be regulated accordingly. Without a competent knowledge of these facts we shall grope in the dark; and may meet disaster when danger is not expected. To this end General Wayne should be particularly instructed, and the Indian Agents also. Nor would it be amiss if some expedient could be devis'd to obtain intelligence from Detroit, that the British accts. of these matters might be likewise known. From the nature, and circumstances of this War good information is scarcely to be obtained, at least not to be relied on, but from a comparison of the intelligence which is obtained through different channels.

In your letter to Genl. Wayne of the 7th. instt., Copy of which is among the enclosures you have forwarded to me, he is informed, that you will "immediately write to the President of the U. States and request his orders on certain conditional Statements relatively to the proportion of Troops which it may

probably be necessary to retain in the upper parts of the Ohio." No such statement is yet come to my hands; of course I am unprovided with the means by which to form a judgment on this head; but under my present view of the matter, and the uncertainty in which we seem to be of the final and *positive* result of the grand Council of the Indians, holden at the Miami, the longer the decision is with-held the better; provided sufficient time is allowed the Troops to cover themselves comfortably for the Winter. And here, while it occurs, let me ask why the same kind of Huts, and mode of covering that was adopted by the army last War may not be again practiced, except *permanent* Barracks, for sufficient Garrisons, at the established Posts. If Scantling, Brick, &ca. are to be provided by the Qr Master it will be attended with considerable expence, and if for a temporary purpose only will be thought injudiciously incurred; and besides, how can this be done, conveniently, before the disposition of the Troops is resolved on?

I am in sentiment with you, that Sub-Legionary Paymasters, and sub-legionary Adjutants (the latter aided by the Sergeant Majors) are competent to their respective duties without Battalion officers of this description; at any rate I conceive that the experiment ought to be made with the latter in the 1st inste.

My observation on every employment in life is, that wherever, and whenever one person is found adequate to the discharge of a duty by close application thereto it is worse executed by two persons, and scarcely done at all if three or more are employed therein; besides, as you have very properly observed, the danger of money is encreased in proportion to the number of hands into which it is committed.

As Major Fish declines the Office of Adjutant General, and Colo. Sproat[74] who (I believe) is on the Spot, is willing to accept

[74] Ebenezer Sproat.

it, I have no objection to his entering on the duties; provided it is *known* that he is a man of liberal education and correct in his writing; *doubts* of these qualifications in Colo. Posey are the only obstacles to my giving him a preference to any other.

I have no objections to Sergeants Dunn and Jones[75] filling vacant Ensigncies if they have given sufficient evidence of their fitness; but as there have been some impositions already in people of this Class I recommend strict caution in future. Richardson[76] should be mentioned to Genl. Wayne, that his behaviour may be noticed.

A likely young man in Alexandria of the name of Turner, has been strongly recommended to me for an Ensigncy. It is said (among other things in his favor) that a number of young Country born men would enlist under *him*. I have answered, let him "ascertain *that* fact, and then apply with the list of them."

If the Evidence in the case of Ensign Morgan[77] is all given in, it becomes proper he should be ordered to the army for his trial; and if it is necessary in *this* case, and will not be establishing an unusual, and bad precedent to do it in the name of the President, I have no objection to the measure. If discretion was a trait of this Officers character or fairness the view of his Advisers, I should hope he would abandon the idea of presenting a memorial to be tried in Philadelphia or that he wd. hesitate a moment to go where he is ordered; if, however, the latter should happen, it would be well, before it is reported to me, to have him and his friends admonished in a friendly way of the consequences that must follow disobedience; for neither the Military nor Civil government shall be trampled upon with impunity whilst I have the honor to be at the head of them. I have no objections to his being tried at Pittsburg, and if there is no

[75] George H. Dunn and Abraham Jones, of the Legion of the United States.
[76] Joseph Richardson.
[77] Ensign John Morgan, of the First U. S. Infantry.

reasons opposed to it (unknown to me) I wd. advise it. That it cannot happen in Philadelphia is certain. Military propriety, the public Service convenience, and the precedent such a measure would establish, are so strongly opposed to it that it is wonderful, he should ever have sufferd the idea to enter into his mind. Why might not, another Officer, if endulgence was granted in this instance, apply for a similar one; nay why not to be carried to Boston, or Charleston as inclination or the expectation of benefits to be derived from it, might prompt.

I perceive by the copy of General Wayne's letter to you before mentioned, that there has been some remissness on the part of the Contractors at Pittsburgh. This ought not to be suffered in the smallest degree; for one neglect or omission, is too apt to beget another, to the discontentment of the Troops and injury of the Service; whereas a rigid exaction in every case checks a departure on their part from the Contract in any; and no indulgence is ever allowed by them to the public. In a former letter, (led thereto by the observations of Mr. Belli) I requested that some consideration might be bestowed upon the mode suggested by him of supplying the Troops by means of a Commissary; but I have heard nothing from you on the Subject since.

The Orders given to the Officer who commanded the Escort of money, and to Genl Wayne, respecting the Supervisor appear to have resulted from necessary precaution, and if warranted by the Constitution and Laws, were undoubtedly proper; and of course are approved. With esteem &c.

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, September 24, 1792.

Sir: Your Letter of the 17th. instant came to my hands by the last post. Under your statement of the conduct of Thomas

Davis Freeman Surveyor of the Port of Plymouth and Inspector of the Revenue of the same, there can be no question with respect to the propriety of superceding him in Office; and from the character given of Mr. John Armistead of that place by the Collector and Inspector, and more particularly by Mr. Johnston of the Senate, there can be as littlle doubt of his fitness to fill it. I have no objections therefore to Mr. Armstead's doing it accordingly, of which you may inform him, and that a Commission will be sent to him for this purpose as soon as circumstances will permit. With esteem etc.[78]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 24, 1792.

My dear Sir: I thank you for the information contained in your private letters of the 16th. and 18th. instt. From the contents of the last, it is probable Mr. Hammond will be here today, or tomorrow before Noon.

I perceive by the Papers that Mr. Penn and lady are arrived, and with them, Mr. Andrew Hamilton and family. What, pray, has been the reception of the last mentioned Gentleman by the Officers of the State Government (particularly the Govr.) Mr. Morris &ca.? I wish to be pretty accurately informed of this before my arrival; because, as he is considered as *one* of the obnoxious characters of the State of Pennsylvania, a little circumspection on the part of the President of the U. States may be necessary.

I hope Mrs. Knox and your family were well when you last heard from them. My poor Nephew though a *little* better is

[78] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

scarcely able to walk. If he would recover strength enough to bear the ride it is recommended to him to spend the Winter in the lower parts of the State where the Weather is more temperate than it is at Mount Vernon. But the chances are much against this.

I still hold to my resolution of leaving this for Philadelphia about the 8th. or 9th. of next month, if the Situation of my family and Servants does not absolutely prevent it; for, never since I have lived at this place has the remitting fever been so prevalent as it has this year. Sincerely and Affectionately I am always etc.

PS. Since writing the foregoing, Messrs. Hammond and Smith are arrived at this place. [MS.H.S.]

To JOHN FRANCIS MERCER

Mount Vernon, September 26, 1792.

Sir: Your Letter of the 15th. inst: was presented to me by Mr. Corbin on his return from Philada.

As my object in taking your Land near Monocacy (in payment of the Debt due from the Estate of your deceased Father to me) is to convert it into Cash as soon as possible *without loss,* I can have no other objection to an advantageous partition of the Tract than what might result from the uncertainty of the price that may be affixed to it, and the consequent possibility that the amount of a moiety may exceed the sum which is due to me by the last Settlement of the Accts.; thereby occasioning a payment of money, instead of receiving it. If these difficulties where removed, I have none other to your proposal of dividing the Tract into two equal parts, and fixing the property therein by lot. A mean of doing this, I will suggest. It is, if you have not heard the sentiments of the Gentlemen, or either of them, who were chosen to affix a *ready money* price on the Land (and

I give you my honor I have not, and moreover that I have never exchanged a word on the subject with any one, except what I told you was Colo. Wm. Deakins's opinion of it's worth) I will allow you seven Dollars pr. acre for a moiety; to be ascertained in the manner before mentioned. I name seven dollars for the following reasons: 1st. because I have been assured by the above Gentleman (who professes to be well acquainted with the Land) that, in his judgment, it would not sell for more than six Dollars Cash, or seven dollars on credit; and 2d. because you have set it at eight dollars yourself, without being able to obtain that price. Five hundred and fifty acres (if the tract contains 1100) wou'd then be within the compass of my claim; and the surplus, if any, I would receive in young Cows, or full grown heifers from Marlborough at three pounds a head, if more agreeable to you than to pay the Cash. Your answer to this proposal, soon, would be convenient to me, as I shall be on my return to Philada. in a short time.

I come now to another part of your Letter, and in touching upon it, do not scruple to declare to you that I was not a little displeased to find by a letter from Captn. Campbell, to a Gentleman in this neighbourhood, that my name had been freely used by you or your friends, for electioneering purposes, when I had never associated your name and the Election together; and when there had been the most scrupulous and pointed caution observed on my part, not to express a sentiment respecting the fitness, or unfitness of any Candidate for representation, that could be construed, by the most violent torture of the words, into an interference in favor of one, or to the prejudice of another. Conceiving that the exercise of an influence (if I really possessed any) however remote, would be highly improper; as the people ought to be entirely at liberty to chuse whom they pleased to represent them in Congress. Having

pursued this line of conduct *steadily,* my surprise, and consequent declaration can be a matter of no wonder, when I read the following words in the letter above alluded to:

I arrived yesterday from Philadelphia, since which I find Colo. Mercer has openly declared, that Mr. Richd. Sprigg, jur; informed him, that Bushrod Washington told him that the President in his presence declared, that he hoped Colo. Mercer would not be left out of the next representation in Congress; and added that he thought him the best representative that now goes or ever did go to that Body from this State.

I instantly declared to the person who shewed me the letter, "that, to the best of my recollection, I never had exchanged a word to, or before Bushrod Washington on the subject of your Election; much less to have given such a decided opinion. That such a measure would have been incompatible with the rule I had prescrib'd to myself, and which I had invariably observed, of not interfering directly, or indirectly with the suffrages of the people, in the choice of their representatives; and added, that I wished B. Washington might be called upon to certify what, or whether any conversation had ever passed between us on this subject, as it was my desire that every thing should stand upon its proper foundations."[79] Other Sentiments have been reported as mine, that are equally erroneous.

Whether you have, upon any occasion, expressed yourself in disrespectful terms of me, I know not: it has never been the subject of my enquiry. If nothing impeaching my honor, or honesty, is said, I care little for the rest. I have pursued one uniform course for three score years, and am happy in *believing* that the world have thought it a right one: of it's being so, I am so well satisfied myself, that I shall not depart from it by turning either to the right or to the left, until I arrive at the end of my pilgrimage. I am etc.[80]

[79] See note to Washington's letter to the Secretary of War, Sept. 7, 1792, *ante.*
[80] Copy is by Bartholomew Dandridge.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, September 28, 1792.

Sir: Your letter of the 22d. Inst., and the enclosures, came to my hands by Wednesdays Post.

I adhere to my resolution of commencing my journey for Philadelphia the 8th. of next month if the condition of my Servts. will admit of it, two of them (one a Postilion) having been extremely ill with remittant fevers which have not yet left them. My order for the Carriage from Philadelphia, to be here by the 8th. for my accommodation back is not countermd. on this Acct.

But, as my journey *may* be delayed something longer than was expected, and as the cold season is approaching, I shall, in addition to what I said on the subject in my last, give you, *in general terms,* my ideas for the disposition of the Troops for the Winter under the uncertainty in which we are of Peace, with the Western Indians.

My first wish would be to keep the Army as compact as possible for the purpose of disciplining, and training the men to such kinds of manœuvres and firings as are proper for Indian Warfare; but, as this would involve one of two evils of magnitude namely, an exposed frontier, or an expensive Militia for its protection, this wish is scarcely attainable. How to dispose of the Troops then to the best advantage for defence is next to be considered; and to do this properly, the ulterior movements of the Army must be held in view, and the period of their commencement also. There are two *principal,* and one intermediate points, on the Ohio, which claim particular attention; to wit Pitsburgh, or some place not far from it, Fort Washington, and Marietta. The grand movement, in the present train of things, must certainly proceed from Fort Washington, but it does not

follow (unless circumstances should point to advantages to be derived from a Winter Campaign, when frost would prevent the descent of the Ohio) that the force ought necessarily to be assembled at that place until about to make a forward movement. 1st. because the enemies attention would be less fixed to it. 2. because the Magazines of Provisions, Military Stores and forage, would accumulate with more ease at that place by lessening the consumption there; and 3d. because the River from Pittsburgh to that Post might be descended when the Waters are up, in Six or eight days: and matters being previously arranged thereat the Army might march as soon as the junction should be formed: whilst the desultory movement which has been contemplated, might proceed (if from good intelligence it should be thought advisable) from big Beaver to Sandusky. Under this idea of the matter one Sub-legion might be Posted under the Comd. of Genl Wilkinson at the Posts below; one at Marietta under the Commd. of G. Putnam; and the other two in the upper part of the River under the Commander in Chief with whom the intercourse would be easy from Philadelphia and his orders quickly dispatched to the Subordinate parts of the Army below.

Without being decided, I ask whether the upper division of the Army, (except the Garrison of Fort Franklin, and a sufficient one for the Stores &ca. at Pittsburgh), had not better be hutted in a secure manner on some convenient Spot near the mouth of, or somewhere on Big Beaver Creek? Keeping out (as ought also to be the case at other Stations) a regular succession of Scouts to scour the Ctry. above and below as well for defence as an essential part of their Tactics. Such a disposition of the force, if the real movements and plan of operations is kept secret which they undoubtedly ought to be, would embarrass the enemy not a little; and more than probably be attended

with solid advantages. I do not however convey these sentiments to you as an *order,* but give them rather as thoughts that have arisen from the incomplete state of our force and the incertitude of the result of the Indian Councils, and for free observation and remarks both by yourself and General Wayne if there was time to obtain them than from any other motive at present.

Perhaps a sufficient Garrison might be better at Marietta (as the intermediate Post) than a larger force and *two* Sub-legionary Corps (including the said Garrison and all others lower down, as the calls for Troops below are great, on acct. of the Communication with the advanced Posts) be wintered in Hutts secured by Intrenchments or a fortified Camp at Fort Washington if there are not Barracks sufficient to contain them at that place. I am &c.

To THE GOVERNORS OF PENNSYLVANIA, NORTH CAROLINA, AND SOUTH CAROLINA

United States, September 29, 1792.

Sir: Inclosed you will find the copy of a Proclamation which I have thought proper to issue in consequence of certain irregular and refractory proceedings which have taken place in particular parts of some of the States, contravening the Laws therein mentioned[81]

I feel an entire confidence that the weight and influence of the Executive of —— will be chearfully exerted in every proper way, to further the objects of this measure, and to promote on every occasion, a due obedience to the Constitutional Laws of the Union. With respect, I am etc.[82]

[81] Some opposition to the excise tax had developed in the Carolinas.
[82] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

*To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mount Vernon, September 29, 1792.

Gentlemen: Your letter of the 1st. instant from George Town came duly to hand. The delay in acknowledging the receipt of it, has proceeded from a belief that if the orders were transmitted before the sale of lots (appointed to be holden on the 8th. of next month) they would get to your hands in time.

Enclosed is an order from the President of the United States authorising the above Sale, and an another for disposing thereafter, of lots by private Sale, at such times, and on such terms as you shall deem best calculated to promote the growth of the Federal City, and the essential interests thereof.[83] With esteem I am etc.[84]

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

September 29, 1792.

The President of the United States doth hereby order and direct that the sale of Lots in the City of Washington, to commence the eighth day of October next, be of such Lots as the Commissioners, or any two of them shall think proper; that the same sale shall be under their direction, and on the terms they shall publish.

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[83] A broadside issued in Sept. [?], 1792, giving the "Terms and Conditions declared by the President of the United States, this seventeenth day of October, seventeen hundred and ninety-one, for regulating the Materials and Manner of the Buildings and Improvements on the Lots in the City of Washington," and also "Terms of the Sale of Lots in the City of Washington, the Eighth Day of October, 1792," is in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[84] From *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

September 29, 1792.

The President of the United States doth hereby order and direct that any Lot or Lots in the City of Washington may, after the public sale to commence on the Eighth day of October, be sold and agreed for by the Commissioners or any two of them at private sale, for such price and on such terms as they may think proper.[85]

To GOVERNOR HENRY LEE

Mount Vernon, September 30, 1792.

Dear Sir: I was favored with your Letter of the 26th. Inst: enclosing one from Arthur Campbell Esqre., for the perusal of which I thank you. The information contained in it, is extremely agreeable, for it has brought the supposed dead to life, and a valuable man back to his Country again.

I congratulate you on your return to Richmond in good health. In a few days I shall commence my journey for Philadelphia. Always. I am etc.[86]

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mount Vernon, October 1, 1792.

Sir: It is highly important that the proceedings in the Indictments of those who have opposed themselves *unwarrantably* to the Laws laying a duty on distilled Spirits, should be placed on legal ground and prosecuted properly; it is my desire, therefore, that you will attend the Circuit Court at York town, to be held the of this month, and see that that business is conducted in a manner to which no exception can be taken with

[85] Both these orders are in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge and initialed by Washington. From *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[86] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

propriety: and for the further purpose, also, of giving to this measure of Government a more solemn and serious aspect. I am &c.[87]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, October 1, 1792.

Sir: I have reced. from Govr. Lee a Letter from Arthur Campbell Esqr. to him, (a copy of which I now enclose for your perusal) stating the return of Colo. Hardin to Fort Washington, and giving some information with respect to Indian Affairs. With esteem I am etc.[88]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, October 1, 1792.

Dear Sir: Expecting this letter will find you in Philadelphia, I wish you wd. begin in time to compare *all* my Speeches in Congress with the subsequent Acts of that body; that I may see what parts of them have passed altogether unnoticed, or which have been only partially noticed; thereby enabling me to judge whether any, and what parts of them should be brought forward again. It is my request also, that you would note everything that may occur to you as fit subjects of information, or for recommendation at the opening of the Session, and such other matters as result from the Laws with wch. it is proper to make the Legislature or the Senate acquainted. I want to have all the materials collected for my Communications previous to my arrival, that when the whole are before me I may select and digests into order, such as will be proper for my Speech.

It is my present intention to commence my journey to Philadelphia on this day week; and to spend that, and part of the

[87] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*
[88] The draft is in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge.

following day in George Town; but whether I shall be able to do it is not absolutely certain, as yet. William and Richard have both been confined to their rooms, and mostly to their beds for ten or twelve days with intermittant fevers; which, never before yesterday, was moderate enough to admit the Bark which makes it doubtful at this moment whether they will be in condition to undertake the journey if they keep well, and a return of the fever I am sure will prevent it. As to poor George I shall say nothing. His fate is unquestionably fixed, and Fanny's, from prest. appearances, is very unpromisg. probably terminating in the same disorder. These occurrances throws my private Affairs into considerable embarrassment; But as they, especially the Major, is not likely to get better, and if they do will spend the Winter at her fathers, I must leave them in it, as there is no remedy at present.

The light house on Cape Henry, in this State, will soon want a Keeper, and if my memory serves me many have offered. Pray examine the characters and have them ready to be decided on by the time I arrive.

Mrs. Washington went up this Morning to bid Mrs. Stuart (who has lately added a Son to the family) farewell. My best wishes attend Mrs. Lear yourself and the Child and I am etc.

[H.L.]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, October 1, 1792.

Sir: Your letter of the 22d. ulto., with it's enclosures, came duly to hand.

Lest any *material* disadvantage should result from delay, I have signed the Act which has been drawn by the Commissioner of the Revenue and approved by you, for arranging allowances to the Supervisors &c., and now forward it; but I

would rather, if this is not likely to be the case, have it retained in your hands until my arrival in Philadelphia, as I wish for some explanations, which I have not the means of obtaining from the want of the former Act of the 4th. of August; a copy of which I requested might be returned to me, but from a misconception of my meaning, a copy of my letter was sent in lieu thereof. I now request a copy of the Act of the 4th. of Augt. and of the present one also.

Before any nomination, or appointment of a Keeper of the Lighthouse on Cape Henry takes place, it would be proper to examine the List of Applicants (and I think there are several) who have applied to me for this Office, and is to be found among my papers by Mr. Lear. If the person recommended by Colo. Parker is intemperate in drinking, it is immaterial whether you can recollect his name or not; for, with me, this would be an insuperable objection, let his pretensions and promises of reformation be what they may. I have been once taken in by the fair promises of Major Call to refrain, and the strong assurances of his friends that he would do it; but will not, knowingly, trust again to the like from any one.

I have by this Post, directed the Attorney General to attend the Circuit Court in York Town, and see that the Indictments are legally prosecuted and properly supported.[89] I am etc.[90]

*To JAMES MERCER

Mount Vernon, October 3, 1792.

Dear Sir: It has long been in my mind to ask you, tho' I have never yet done it, if you could give me any information of a Conveyance of the Lotts I purchased at Colo. Mercer's Sale of

[89] Against those inhabitants of Pennsylvania who had opposed the operation of the excise law.

[90] From the " Letter Book " copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Land in Frederick County in the year 1774. I can find no deeds for these Lotts amongst my Land Papers; but by recuring to Letters which have passed between you and me (in a settlements of Accounts with your Brother Colo. Jno. F. Mercer in August last) it would appear as if this had been done through your Agency. If so, your memory, (much better I am persuaded than mine) may furnish you with the fact; and with the circumstances attending it. Or, if it should not, and you would be so obliging when in Richmond to examine the Clerks Office of the General Court to see if any Deeds from *you* to me by way of re-conveyance (for this I think was the mode suggested) are on record, it would be doing me an acceptable favor. If none is to be found there nor in the Fredek. Office I am yet without a *legal* title to the land, although the purchase money has been allowed in the settlement before alluded to, with interest thereon agreeably to the tenor of the Sale.

With sincere esteem and regd. I am etc.

To ELIZABETH WASHINGTON LEWIS

Mount Vernon, October 7, [1792].

My Dr. Sister: As Mrs. Washington and myself expect to set out tomorrow for Philadelphia, and the Major and Fanny the day after, if the vessel which is to carry him to Colo. Bassets, arrives in time, I have taken the advantage of the good opportunity afforded by Mr. Robert Lewis of sending Harriet to Fredericksburg. It is done at this time (notwithstanding your proposed visit to Albemarle), 1st. because it would be improper to leave her here after we are all gone; 2nd. because there would be no person to accompany her down afterwards; and 3d. because it might be inconvenient for her to travel alone.

She comes, as Mrs. Washington informs me, very well provided with everything proper for a girl in her situation: this

much I know, that she costs me enough to place her in it. I do not however want you, (or any one else) to do more by her than merely to admit her into your family whilst this House is uninhabited by a female white woman, and thereby rendered an unfit place for her to remain at. I shall continue to do for her what I have already done for seven years past; and that is to furnish her with such reasonable and proper necessaries as she may stand in need of, notwithstanding I have had both her brothers upon my hands, and I have been obliged to pay several hundred pounds out of my own pocket, for their boards, schooling, clothing &c. &c. of them, for more than the period aforementioned; their father's estate being unable to discharge the Executions as fast as they are issued against it.

Harriet has sense enough, but no disposition to industry, nor to be careful of her clothes. Your example and admonition, with proper restraints may overcome the two last; and to that end I wish you would examine her clothes and direct her in their use and application of them; for without this they will be, I am told, dabbed about in every hole and corner, and her best things always in use. Fanny was too easy, too much of her own indolent disposition and had too little authority to cause, either by precept or example, any change in this for the better and Mrs. Washington's absence has been injurious to her in many respects: but she is young, and with good advice may yet make a fine woman. If, notwithstanding the suggestion that she is well provided with everything (except a Cloak which may not be had in Alexandria, and may be got at Fredericksburgh) a deficiency is found and you wish to supply it, there will be no occasion for your laying in advance more than ten days; as I could at any time remit a bank note in a letter, to you in four days after I was made acquainted with the amount. I do not mean by this to launch into expensiveness; she has no

pretensions to it, nor would the state of my finances enable me to indulge her in that if she had.

Mrs. Washington joins me in best wishes for the perfect restoration of your health, and every other blessing. I am etc.[91]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Mount Vernon [Philadelphia], October 14, 1792.

Mr. Whiting: I arrived in this City yesterday afternoon, Without encountering any accident except what you are acquainted with by the return of the Mare from George Town; and the indisposition of Richard; who, with difficulty, was able to travel from Baltimore to this place, on acct. of the fever wch. returnd on him.

Recollecting that it was my desire that you should send the Reports to the Post Office every Wednesday afternoon, and receive at the sametime my communications from thence; I shall now, to avoid the delay of a week, mention such things as have occurred to me since I left home, and were not communicated to you; or, if mentioned at all, were but slightly touched upon; from the hurried situation into which I had been thrown.

Having left the disposition of the Mansion House people to you, I wish to know how they are arranged; and think the sooner they are distributed to their permanent abodes the better. Those which I allotted to the Gardener, are neither to be idle themselves, nor to support him in idleness; but are to enable him to carry certain plans of mine into effect with more promptness; and in a better manner (unless his immediate Superintendance) than it otherwise could be, without withdrawing your attention more than it ought to be from matters of greater magnitude. The things which I want him to do with

[91] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

these people (aided by the Mansn. Ho. Cart) are to complete the upper Garden Walks with gravel, taken from the nearest Pit wch. is hid from view; and this I think may be found in a gully in the Clover lot, in front of the M. House. The gravel to pass through a wooden Sieve, to take out Stones of too large a size. To gravel the Walks in the Pine labyrinths, on both sides of the Lawn West of the House. To plant fresh clumps as soon as the trees can be removed; in the Buck Wheat Lot; the two clover lots; &ca.; and of the best, and most ornamental trees, quick in their growth. These clumps are not to be placed with regularity as they respect one another, nor the trees in each, individually. Nor are the clumps to cover (individually) half the ground those did which were planted out last fall, Winter, and Spring. In a word, the trees are to be so close together in each clump as for the tops, in a little while, to appear as if they proceeded from one trunk. they can always be thinned if found too thick. Those clumps wch. are already planted (if alive) may be thickened in the manner I have described, and with the same kind of trees; provided they do not stand in too formal a point of view, one to the other. The ever-greens must be removed when they can be taken up with a compact and solid body of frozen earth to the Roots, otherwise the labour will be lost, and another year will pass away without accomplishing my design; as abundant experience has incontestibly proved. The flowering ever-green Ivy, I want them to plant thick around the Ice house upper side, not of the tallest kind, but of an even height: this should be taken up as above; and to insure its thriving, as well as barely living, there ought, I conceive, to be a bed of its natural soil prepared two or three feet deep, and as wide as the transplantation, (six or eight feet at least), is intended. The like at the No. East of the same lawn, by the other

Wall. and if beyond that Hah! Hah! between it and the Path leading from the Bars to the Wild Cherry tree in the Hollow, was pretty thickly strewed with them (of the lower sort) and intermixed freely with the bush honey suckle of the Woods, it would, in my opinion, have a pleasing effect. Besides these things, and keeping the Gardens (my small, as well as the others) Lawns, Shrubberies, and Ovals clean and free from Weeds and grass, I would have what is called the Vineyard Inclosure cleansed of all the trash that is in it, and got in perfect order for fruit trees, Kitchen vegitables of various kinds, experimental grasses, and for other purposes. Perhaps after the trash and grubs are taken out, a good plowing with a strong team where there is nothing growing may be an essential preparatory operation for the work that is to follow. The old ditch and bank which splits this inclosure in two is to be levelled, and the trees, except here and there one, taken away; in these I do not comprehend fruit trees; After these things are accomplished, or in weather when they cannot be employed usefully in either of the works before enumerated, these (Negro) hands may be employed in cutting wood, or in other work with the Mansion House gang.

I would have the Gardener also, with these people, if the Autumn is a proper Season for it, if not, without fail in the Spring, plant cuttings of the Weeping Willow, yellow willow, or Lombardy Poplar prefering the first and last mentioned, at the distance of a foot, or 18 Inches apart from the Smiths shop, quite as the Post and Rail fence runs around both these inclosures; and the Vine yard inclosure; also that lately sown in Lucern from the Stercorary to the river fence; that by entwining them as they grow up I may have a substitute for the fences that are now there. To do this, is of the utmost importance to my interest;

as it also is in a more essential degree, to supply by hedges of this, or some other kind *all* my other fences; as well the exterior ones as those which seperate the different fields from one another. I have laboured to effect this latter point for years. I have pressed it, and pressed it again; but, strange to tell! the Season has either been suffered to pass away before it is set about; or it has either been set about improperly; or, no care has been taken afterwards to preserve and nourish the young plants so as to fit them for the purpose they were intended. Let me therefore in the strongest terms possible, call your attention to this business, as one, than which nothing is nearer, both to my interest and wishes; first, because it is indispensably necessary to save timber and labour; and secondly, because it is ornamental to the Farm, and reputable to the Farmer.

If you want Honey locust seed, or any thing else from hence to enable you to effect these I will send them. About the Mansion House (and indeed in other cross fences, where Hogs cannot come) I think the Weeping Willow and lombardy poplar, which are quick of growth, is to be preferred. Save much of the Cedar Berries, and (after washing, and rubbing off the glutinous coating around the Seed) sow them in every place where you think they can be established to advantage. This might be done even, where you put the cuttings above mentioned (at the Plantations) as a more permanent fence than the other; which may yield, as the Cedars grow up, and are plasted.

Let the hands at the Mansion House Grub *well,* and perfectly prepare the old clover lot at the Mansion House for whatever you may incline to put into it, preparatory for grass, with which it is to be laid down. When I say grub *well,* I mean that everything wch. is not to remain as trees should be taken up by the roots; so as that the Plow may meet with no interruption,

and the field lye perfectly smooth for the Scythe. Let this, I earnestly request, be received as a general, and positive direction; for I seriously assure you, that I had rather have *one Acre* cleared in this manner, than four in the common mode; especially in *all* grounds designed for grass; and for the reasons which I have often mentioned to you. It is a great, and very disagreeable eye-sore to me, as well as a real injury in the loss of labour and the Crop (ultimately) and the destruction of Scythes, to have foul meadows.

After this is done by the Mansion House people, let them begin at the Wharf, or rather what is called hell hole, and Grub as has been cleared all the under-growth, trimming the large from that place to the cross fence which runs down from the spring to the River fence, that I may, when the wet spots are made dry, and without plowing or breaking the ground more than a harrow would do, lay it down in grass. And when these two objects are accomplished, if nothing else *more* desirable should occur, to set them about, they might be employed in grubbing and preparing the ground I once (as you know) contemplated as a Corn field for the Muddy hole people at the Mansion House.

It is my wish that no hogs may be put up for Porke that is not of sufficient size and age. I had rather have a little Porke that is good, than much bad.

I am persuaded your exertions to get out your Wheat, will be commensurate to the necessity; that gathering of Corn (as soon as it can be with safety) may follow before the frosts may render it pernicious to run Carts over the Wheat, that is amongst it. Delay no time in getting up, threshing out, and measuring your Buck Wheat that I may know what is made. Nor in digging up the Potatoes at Dogue-Run. And I am persuaded you

will begin your Autumn plowing as soon as circumstances will permit; remember that the season is now approaching fast when frosts will put a stop to this business.

The second Visto which I mentioned to you is but a secondary object, and yet I am anxious to know over what ground it will pass; but this may be done by a line of stakes in an avenue not more than Six feet wide.

The Sooner the old Quarter is pulled down the better. Davis may then do up the Wall, and he ought, in time, to do the other Jobs I mentioned to you, to wit, the Chimney in the Neck; the Chimney at French's; and that at Bishops house; the Vault, (burying place) also wants repair. After these he will, as late as the Weather will permit, proceed in painting; first finishing the Quarter, then the four Garden houses, then the Smoke house and Store; then the old Spinning house, Wash house, and Coach house with red roofs as the others have. After doing this work, or when obliged to quit it he will join the Carpenters. This Nuclus may do immediately; or as soon as all the Cedars, locusts, and other valuable Wood where Sam has been clearing, can be stripped of its limbs and brought to, and secured in, or at the Barn.

As it is proposed that the hands at Muddy hole should obtain their Corn ground at Dogue run, the parts of it that now are; or probably will be wet in the Spring, ought without loss of time to be ditched; that they may be thoroughly grubbed this fall, or in the Winter; and the middle meadow there are two places, I conceive, that will want main ditches, besides smaller cross ditches, viz, the arm of the swamp running up towards the Spring, and the other arm leading to the outer fence. What Ditching may be wanting in the Mill swamp, above the present Corn field therein, I know not; one main ditch, however, will certainly be necessary, and more than probably one or two cross

ones. But in this case, as in every other, it is my express desire that no more may be attempted than what can be compleatly, and effectually executed.

As I have already furnished you with a memorandum of the work marked out for the Carpenters, I need not, at this time, add any thing on that head; except a wish that the Well may be compleated agreeably to the model, that I may know whether it will answer or not. And, if it was not mentioned in my last, that the Qr. may be taken down.

Endeavor to provide Oyster Shells in the course of this Winter, that, in case I should resolve on it, there may be no let, or delay in building a Barn, or treading floor at Dogue-run to be in readiness for the next Wheaten Crop. I met with a Nephew of mine, Colo. Willm. Augustine Washington,[92] at George Town, who promised to engage some persons, if he could, to carry shells to Mount Vernon for me; if this should happen but do not depend upon it you must take what are brought, although you may have entered into other engagements; as it will be on my acct. he sends them; they must be paid for on delivery; I do not suppose they will exceed 16/8 or 18/8. the hundred bushels, but if they are engaged for me they must be taken if they do exceed this price.

As I can get Iron as cheap, if not cheaper here than it is obtained from Alexandria, send me the sizes of the Bars, plates, &ca. which you would have to compose a Tonn, and I will send it from hence before the frost sets in.

Mrs. Washington requested the Gardeners Wife, and she readily undertook it, to superintend, under your general direction, the care of the Spinners. This will also lessen the minutiae of your business, and enable you to attend closer to the great, and important parts of it. Put her in a good and regular

[92] Of Wakefield, son of Augustine ("Austin"), Washington's half-brother.

mode, and keep her to the exercise of it. An allowance will be made her for the trouble this business will occasion. Tell the Gardener, it is my desire that he should raise Chesnut trees from the Nuts of those which grow on the front Lawn.

Although it is last mentioned, it is foremost in my thoughts, to desire you will be particularly attentive to my Negros in their sickness; and to order every Overseer *positively* to be so likewise; for I am sorry to observe that the generality of them, view these poor creatures in scarcely any other light than they do a draught horse or Ox; neglecting them as much when they are unable to work; instead of comforting and nursing them when they lye on a sick bed. I lost more Negros last winter, than I had done in 12 or 15 years before, put them altogether. If their disorders are not common, and the mode of treating them plain, simple and well understood, send for Doctr. Craik in time. In the last stage of the complaint it is unavailing to do it. It is incurring an expence for nothing.

I shall now briefly say, that the trust I have reposed in you is great, and my confidence that you will faithfully discharge it, is commensurate thereto. I am persuaded of your abilities, industry and integrity; cautioning you only, against undertaking more than you can execute *well,* under almost any circumstances; and against (but this I have no cause to suspect) being absent from your business; as example, be it good or bad, will be followed by all those who look up to you. Keep every one in their places, and to their duty; relaxation from, or neglects in small matters, lead to like attempts in matters of greater magnitude; and are often trials in the under Overseers to see how far they durst go.

Have all the Tools collected from the scattered situation in which they are, and all that are not in use, put securely away; the loss, or abuse of Tools, though nothing to the Overseers,

when they can ask more and obtain them, is a very heavy expence to those who have them to furnish and are to be at the expence of providing them.

I beseech you to be very attentive to the fires, keeping none in the yard except the one in your own room another in the Kitchen; the latter to be under the particular care of Frank and his wife. Let the Gates be locked. The Gravel may be dropped at the back door of the Garden, as in any event, I believe, it must be wheeled in hand barrows. the same may, possibly be done by the gravel for the Pine labyrinths, that is, come in on the back side of them. I remain etc.

PS. Let me know when the Major left Mt. Vernon, and how he was at the time.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Private)

Philadelphia, October 18, 1792.

My dear Sir: I did not require the evidence of the extracts which you enclosed me, to convince me of your attachment to the Constitution of the United States, or of your disposition to promote the general Welfare of this Country. But I regret, deeply regret, the difference in opinions which have arisen, and divided you and another principal Officer of the Government; and wish, devoutly, there could be an accommodation of them by mutual yieldings.

A Measure of this sort would produce harmony, and consequent good in our public Councils; the contrary will, inevitably, introduce confusion, and serious mischiefs; and for what? because mankind cannot think alike, but would adopt different means to attain the same end. For I will frankly, and solemnly

declare that, I believe the views of both of you[93] are pure, and well meant; and that experience alone will decide with respect to the salubrity of the measures wch. are the subjects of dispute. Why then, when some of the best Citizens in the United States, Men of discernment, Uniform and tried Patriots, who have no sinister views to promote, but are chaste in their ways of thinking and acting are to be found, some on one side, and some on the other of the questions which have caused these agitations, shd. either of you be so tenacious of your opinions as to make no allowances for those of the other? I could, and indeed was about to add more on this interesting subject; but will forbear, at least for the present; after expressing a wish that the cup wch. has been presented, may not be snatched from our lips by a discordance of *action* when I am persuaded there is no discordance in your *views*. I have a great, a sincere esteem and regard for you both, and ardently wish that some line could be marked out by which both of you could walk. I am &c.[94]

To CAPTAIN JOHN DOWNING[95]

Philadelphia, October 20, 1792.

Sir: The warm and earnest manner in which you have recommended your son, in your letter to me of the 21 of June,[96] makes me regret the necessity I am under of informing you, that I see no prospect of the young gentleman's wish being gratified in this respect; for so numerous and so respectable are the applications for military appointments from our own citizens that scarcely one in four of these can be gratified; and to grant that to a foreigner which is claimed by so many of our

[93] Hamilton and Jefferson.
[94] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[95] Of the British artillery.
[96] Downing's letter was dated from St. Christopher, West Indies.

own citizens, unless under some very peculiar circumstances, might be styled not only unjust, but impolitic. I am therefore persuaded, Sir, that you will receive this matter in it's true light, and be assured that I have a proper sense of the respectable manner in which you mention this Country as well as of the polite expressions towards myself, which are contained in your letter. I am etc.[97]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

October 20, 1792.

Dear Sir: The letters of Gouvr. Morris give a gloomy picture of the Affairs of France. I fear with too much truth.

If the order of Senate dated the 7th. of last May is compleated, it must be with *all* Offices except the Judges.

The Post Office (as a branch of Revenue) was annexed to the Treasury in the time of Mr. Osgood; and when Colo. Pickering was appointed thereto, he was informed, as I find by my letter to him dated the 29th. of August 1791,[98] that he was to consider it in that light. If from relationship, or usage in similar cases (for I have made no enquiry into the matter, having been closely employed since you mentioned the thing to me, in reading papers from the War Office) the Mint does not appertain to the Department of the Treasury I am more inclined to add it to that of State than to multiply the duties of the other. I am etc.

PS. The Letters of Mr. Seagrove to Genl Knox are a continn., of the evidence of Spanish interference with the Southern Indians.[99]

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[97] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[98] This letter was signed by the secretary to the President, Tobias Lear.
[99] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To DOCTOR WILLIAM DAVIES SHIPLEY [1]

Philadelphia, October 20, 1792.

Sir: I have been honored with your polite Letter of the 23d. of May, together with the works of your late Right Revd. father Lord bishop of St. Asaph, which accompanied it. For the character and sentiments of that venerable Divine while living, I entertained the most perfect esteem, and have a sincere respect for his memory now he is no more. My best thanks are due to you for his works, and the mark of your attention in sending them to me; and especially for the flattering expressions respecting myself, which are contained in your letter. I am etc.[2]

*To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

(Private)

Philadelphia, October 20, 1792.

My dear Sir: Although your letter of the 10th. of June, which I have received, did not paint the prospects of France in the most pleasing colours; yet the events which have since taken place give a more gloomy aspect to the public Affairs of that Kingdom than your letter gave reason to apprehend.

A thousand circumstances, besides our distance from the Theatre of Action, made it improbable that we should have, in this Country, a fair statement of facts and causes through the medium of the public prints; and I have received no other accounts than what have come in that channel. But taking up the most favorable of these, gloomy indeed appears the situation of France at this juncture. But it is hardly probable that

[1] Dean of St. Asaph.
[2] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

even you, who are on the spot, can say with any precision how these things will terminate; much less can we, at this distance, pretend to augur the event. We can only repeat the sincere wish that much happiness may arise to the French Nation and to Mankind in general out of the severe evils which are inseparable from so important a Revolution.

In the present State of things we cannot expect that any Commercial Treaty can now be formed with France; but I have no doubt of your embracing the proper moment of arrangement and of doing whatever may be in your power for the Substantial interest of our Country.

The Affairs of the U. States go on well. There are some few clouds in our political Hemisphere but I trust that the bright sun of our prosperity will disperse them.

The Indians on our Western and Southern frontiers are still troublesome, but such measures are taking[3] as will, I presume, prevent any serious mischiefs from them; I confess, however, that I do not believe these tribes will ever be brought to a quiescent state so long as they may be under an influence which is hostile to the rising greatness of these States.

From the complexion of some of our News-papers Foreigners would be led to believe that inveterate political dissensions existed among us, and that we are on the very verge of disunion; but the fact is otherwise; the great body of the people now feel the advantages of the General Government, and would not, I am persuaded, do any thing that should destroy it; but these kind of representations is an evil wch. must be placed in opposition to the infinite benefits resulting from a free Press; and I am sure you need not be told that in this

[3] Six hundred stands of arms were sent from the United States' arsenals to South Carolina on the plea from that State. The correspondence between Secretary Lear and Samuel Hodgdon on this matter (October 16–18) is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

Country a personal difference in political sentiments is often made to take the garb of general dissensions.

From the Department of State you are, I am informed, furnished with such papers and documents, from time to time, as will keep you more particularly informed of the state of our affairs; I shall therefore add nothing further to this letter than assurances of being always and sincerely Yours etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

To SIR EDWARD NEWENHAM

Philadelphia, October 20, 1792.

Dear Sir: Where your Letter of the 21st. of December last has been travelling since it left you, I cannot tell; but it did not get to my hands till within a few weeks past; when I likewise received your's of the 15th. of July, introducing Mr. Anderson. I was sorry to see the gloomy picture which you drew of the affairs of your Country in your letter of December; but I hope events have not turned out so badly as you then apprehended. Of all the animosities which have existed among mankind, those which are caused by a difference of sentiments in religion appear to be the most inveterate and distressing, and ought most to be deprecated. I was in hopes, that the enlightened and liberal policy, which has marked the present age, would at least have reconciled *Christians* of every denomination so far, that we should never again see their religious disputes carried to such a pitch as to endanger the peace of Society.

The Affairs of this Country still wear a prosperous aspect. Our Agriculture, Commerce and navigation are in a flourishing state. In some parts of the Country the crops of Indian corn (maize) have been injured by the drought in summer, and early frosts in autumn. We have, however, a happiness, which is scarcely in any other Country; for such is the extent of the

U. S. and so great a variety of climate and soil do they embrace, that we never need apprehend a universal failure of our crops, and a consequent famine.

I have spent part of the summer at Mount Vernon, and have but just returned to the seat of Government, where I am so much engaged in attending to business, which has accumulated during my absence, and in preparing such business as will be necessary to lay before the Legislature at their meeting early in next month, that I have but little time to attend to any affairs of a private or personal nature; I am therefore persuaded, that you will to these impute causes the shortness of this letter. Mrs. Washington unites with me in respects and best wishes for Lady Newenham and yourself. I am &c.[4]

*To SIR JOHN SINCLAIR

Philadelphia, October 20, 1792.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 18th. of May, enclosing the Pamphlet and papers which you had the goodness to send me.

While I beg your acceptance of my acknowledgements for the polite mark of attention in transmitting these things to me, I flatter myself you will be assured that I consider the subject therein recommended as highly important to Society, whose best interests I hope will be promoted by a proper investigation of them, and the happiness of mankind advanced thereby.

I have to regret that the duties of my public station do not allow me to pay that attention to Agriculture and the objects attached to it (which have ever been my favorite pursuit) that I could wish; but I will put your queries respecting Sheep into the hands of such Gentlemen as I think most likely to attend

[4]From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

to them and answer them satisfactorily; I must, however, observe that no important information on the subject can be expected from this Country where we have been so little in the habit of attending either to the breed or improvement of our Stock. With great respect and esteem etc.[5]

*To ARTHUR YOUNG

Philadelphia, October 20, 1792.

Sir: I must beg your acceptance of my best thanks for the book that accompanied your polite letter of the 9th. of June which came duly to my hands.

I presume you have long before this received my letter which was committed to the care of Mr. Pinckney, our Minister at the Court of Great Britain, and shall be very glad if the contents of it afforded you the information which it was intended to communicate; for I am persuaded, that I need not repeat to you how sincerely I wish success to those laudable exertions which you are making to promote the important interest of Agriculture and the cause of humanity. With very great esteem etc.[6]

*To ANDREW ELLICOTT

Philadelphia, October 20, 1792.

The Honble. Mr. Cushing one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the U. States has some thought of passing through the Federal City in the Circuit he is about to make. Should this happen I shall be obliged to you for shewing him such parts of it as he may incline to view. I am etc.[7]

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[5] From the facsimile in *Letters on Agriculture . . . to Arthur Young . . . and Sir John Sinclair* (Franklin Knight edition: 1847).

[6] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

[7] From a photograph of the original through the kindness of A. E. Douglass, of Tucson, Ariz.

*To THE INSPECTORS OF TOBACCO AT ALEXANDRIA

Philadelphia, October 21, 1792.

Gentn: In 1790 I had 13 Hhds. of Tobo. Inspected at the Warehouses in Alexandria; and in 1791 12 more were also Inspected at the same place.

Not meeting a price that I was disposed to take, they remain there still. my Nephew Majr. Washington either before, or since your care of these Warehouses was allowed to stow them in a secure place, therein; but as it is now more than a year since this happened, and a good deal of Tobacco may, possibly, have been recd. and delivered in that period, they may have been displaced. I have on the presumption of this directed Mr. Whiting my Manager, at such time as you shall please to appoint, to take some hands with him and again collect and well secure them. I do not mean that they should be reinspected at this time; but to be placed only in a state of security. Before delivery, it will be necessary I presume to have the condition of the Tobo. examined, or if the Law requires it, or if any advantage would result from it, I have no objection to its being done now. I recollect to have been informed that the Tobo. was put up dry, and that it was of a good sort and of superior quality; if so it will not have suffered from its age. I am etc.

To DAVID STUART

Philadelphia, October 21, 1792.

Dr. Sir: You informed me when I was at George town on my way to this City, that Colo. Mercer upon receiving, or being told of Colo. Hamilton's letter to him, requesting to know if the words with which he was charg'd by Major Ross as having

uttered in his public harangues against the conduct of the Secretary of the Treasury, were true; expressed, if I understood you rightly, much surprize at the application; as he, *Colo. Hamilton,* must be conscious of his having attempted to *bribe him, Colo. Mercer,* to vote for a further assumption of the State debts, and that this surprize was expressed at a public table before many gentlemen.

This is a charge of so serious a nature that it is incumbent on Colo. Hamilton to clear it up, or for the President of the United States to take notice of it. For this reason, before I communicate the matter to Colo. Hamilton, I beg to be informed whether I precisely understood the information you gave me, and in that case, who were the persons that heard Colo. Mercer express himself to that effect. It was my intention to have asked this at the time you mentioned the matter, but I was diverted from it by something that occurred at the moment, and the variety of things which have been thrown in my way since I came to this place have prevented it till now.

With great esteem &c.[8]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, October 28, 1792.

Mr. Whiting: By yesterdays Post I received a letter from you without date, but suppose from the contents it must have left Mount Vernon on Wednesday last.

The letter to Mrs. Fanny Washington must be sent to me, because the purpose of it cannot be answered by sending it to her below.

The Mansion house surplus hands, may be disposed of as you shall, upon a full view of all circumstances, conceive best;

[8] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

and the Mule Cart (instead of the Oxe Cart) may be retained, with the single horse Cart also at that place. Sinah may also remain there until her Mother gets up again, although it is my intention to substitute Anna in her place, as an assistant to Kitty. Sinah and Patt may strengthen the Plantation which stands in most need of their aid.

The scarcity of Timber in the Neck for fences, and the distance it is to draw at other places, are evils I have long foreseen, and have endeavoured to guard against; but for reasons which I mentioned to you in one of my late letters it never has been accomplished. I hope, however, as I have, in as strong terms as I know how to use, impressed the necessity of raising live Hedges upon you, that I shall no longer have cause to complain of neglect on this score. Any thing, in the shape of a live hedge is desirable; and almost any thing for partition fences (where there are no hogs) will suffice. Mr. Bartram, the Botanist whom I have seen since my return to this City, is of opinion that it was the Spring and Summer droughts that prevented the Cedar berries from Vegitating; and that they may yet be expected; do not therefore let the ground where they were sown be disturbed without accurately examining the Berries to see if there be any hopes of their coming up. He also says that when Cedars are plashed and laid down, that if the limbs next the ground are covered properly they will take root and send out a number of new shoots, this will be worth trying, if upon examination of the Cedar hedge rows in the Neck, you should think it advisable to lay them down.

It is not to be wondered that the field No. 7 at the River Plantation should want a New Post and Rail fence when, it is seen what kind my people make (in spite of all I can do to prevent it) that is, Posts when morticed that a strong man would break across his knee, and rails so long, and so weak, as

to warp, and be unable to bear the weight of a Child in getting over them. This custom I hope you will get the better of.

The two Meadows at Dogue run, that is, the middle and upper one, contain by actual measurement 51¾ Acres; the middle one 31¼; and the Wood between, if opened by a strait line from one Indenture of the field to the other, will add 8¼ Acres thereto but to do this ought not to be attempted until the present open ground is compleatly, grubbed, ditched (where necessary) and put into perfect Order for the Plow and Smooth laying for grass; for I repeat it again, that I had rather have one acre in this order, than five in a slovenly way; which is not only disadvantageous in many points of view, but is a very great eye-sore to me.

I suppose it was owing to the hurry and distress in which Mrs. Fanny Washington was at the time she left Mount Vernon that a little Wine &ca. was not left out for extraordinary occasions; because I know it was intended; but not for sick Negros, unless it might be in particular cases which rendered it indispensably necessary; for Docr. Craik never practiced anything of this kind when Mrs. Washington and myself were at home, or even suggested it as necessary: Nor was it my intention to leave it for the purpose of entertaining travellers, because there is a striking impropriety in travellers making use of it as a house of convenience, knowing, as they certainly must do, that neither my family, nor the Majors, is there; and when it is far removed from the Post, or any other public Road. And if people were led there by curiosity, as soon as that was satisfied, they would retire; without expecting, under the circumstances just mentioned, to be invited to lodge, dine, or spend their time there. However, as it may happen that characters to whom one would wish to shew civility, and others, that may have a line

from me (as was the case the other day with the Honble. Judge Cushing) may call there, I shall, by a Vessel which will leave this according to the Master's Acct. on thursday next, send you a little Wine, Tea and Coffee, along with the Iron and some things which will accompany it.

When I recommended care of and attention to, my Negros in sickness, it was that the first stage of, and the whole progress through the disorders with which they might be seized (if more than a slight indisposition) should be closely watched, and timely applications, and remedies be administered; especially in Pleurisies, and all inflamatory fevers accompanied with pain when a few days neglect, or want of bleeding, might render the ailment incurable. In such cases sweeten'd Teas, broths, and, (according to the nature of the complaint, and the Doctrs. prescription) sometimes a little Wine may be necessary to nourish and restore the patient; and these I am perfectly willing to allow when it is really requisite. My fear is, as I expressed to you in a former letter, that the under overseers are so unfeeling, in short viewing the Negros in no other light than as a better kind of Cattle, the moment they cease to work, they cease their care of them.

I am very glad to hear that you think your young and soft Corn is out of danger; and wish upon further trial this may prove to be the fact, as I have been apprehensive of considerable loss from the backwardness of it.

You say in your letter, that the Ferry People have got out all their Wheat, and yet, by the Report of last week only 59½ bushls. was sent to Mill; and by the Report of the preceeding Week 182; If these two quantities with what was got out for seed, is all the Crop that No. 1 at French's yielded, it is (if I recollect rightly what that was) a miserable turn out indeed, far

short of the lowest calculation that had been made of it. I wish you would, always, when the contents of a field is known, enter it in the weekly report and let it come on, that I may be early advised.

I perceive by the Report that you have been hauling the Buck Wheat from Mansion House to Muddy hole. I had no conception of this, but supposed you would have drawn it to the Brick yard, or some other naked piece of ground and there threshed and cleaned it, putting the grain in the Green Ho. loft, and retaining the straw for litter. I wish to know the quantity of the grain it has yielded, and what the appearance of grass is where the Buck Wheat grew.

I wish you would make old Jack and Frank, at their leizure hours, especially the latter, who I think must have many of them, open all the Springs that lye under the Hill, from the Bog (inclusive) by the Spring House onwards to the Wharf and let them, and the usual Spring, be thrown into one currt. or channel and carried on a level or as nearly so as for the water to run, along the Hill side until it is brought into that line which I was opening from the East front of the House (in a line with the Doors) to the River. If any aid from the Ditchers is wanting to accomplish this, it may be given; but I do not mean that any other ditch should be dug, where it can be avoided, than such as are used for side-land meadows, and these you know are simple and small indeed.

I shall make enquiry after linnen, and if I can get what is wanting upon reasonable terms, will send it by Captn. Cahart; who, as I have before said talks of Sailing on thursday next. If I should not do this you will be informed thereof by the next Post.

I have resolved to build a Barn and treading floor at Dogue Run Plantation, and to do it as soon as other more pressing

work will permit; at any rate for the Wheat of next harvest. In my last, I sent you a Bill of such Scantling as I proposed to buy. Now I give you a general Bill, and a Plan of the building, with such explanations and directions as I think Thos. Green (to whom after you have perused it, it must be given) can be at no loss in the execution; and therefore shall add nothing more in this letter than to desire you will engage the Scantling marked to be purchased, provide Shells and the number of Shingles which may be deficient which, cannot be many as (for want of calculation) 10,000 were got for the Piaza and, I believe, less than 4,000 used; this small demand might, I should suppose be easily procured at Alexandria. In general I shall depend upon you to provide what is wanted and to see that every thing is carried on properly. I am etc.

*To JAMES MERCER

Philadelphia, November 1, 1792.

Dear Sir: I pray you to accept my thanks for your obliging attention to my request respecting the conveyance of Lots which I purchased at the Sale of Colo. Mercers Estate; and for sending the Deeds from Mr. Muse to me. I see no occasion of a Copy of the re-conveyance of the above lots from you to me, as I am persuaded they were drawn with correctness; and because it appears by the Clerks certificate on the back of the Deed to you, that it was duly recorded.

Permit me before I close this letter, to express my regret that want of health, or any other cause should have prevented you from making me the visit you proposed whilst I was at Mount

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On October 29 Washington signed an additional order, revising and altering the order of Aug. 4, 1792, fixing the compensations of inspectors and supervisors for collecting the tax on distilled spirits according to the act of May 8, 1792. This order is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

Vernon; and to assure you that it will ever give me sincere pleasure to see you at that place. And I will also unite my regret to yours for the death of our old friend, and acquaintance Colo. Mason.[9] With Affectionate regard etc.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

November 1, 1792.

The enclosed[10] places matters on their true grounds; and in my opinion on a proper footing.[11]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, November 3, 1792.

Dear Sir: Your letter to Messrs. Carmichael and Short[12] (now returned) is full and proper. I have added a word or two with A pencil, which may be inserted or not as you shall think best. The intention of them is to do away the charge of Sovereignty over more than are within our own territory.

The erazures from the Speech, as you advise, are made, except exchanging the word, "high," for "just." If facts will justify the former (as I think they indubitably do) policy, I conceive, is much in its favor: For while so many unpleasant things are announced as the Speech[13] contains, it cannot be amiss to accompany them with communications of a more agreeable nature. I am etc.[14]

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[9] George Mason, of "Gunston Hall." He died Oct. 7, 1792.

[10] Jefferson's letter to Joseph Ignacio de Viar and José de Jaudenes, Nov. 1, 1792, a press copy of which is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[11] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[12] Of Nov. 3, 1792. A press copy of a copy is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[13] The fourth annual address to Congress, Nov. 6, 1792, *post.*

[14] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, November 4, 1792.

Mr. Whiting: I was very glad to receive your letter of the 31st. ulto. because I was affraid, from the account given me of your spitting blood, by my Nephews George and Lawrence Washington, that you would hardly have been able to have written at all. And it is my request that you will not, by attempting more than you are able to undergo, with safety and convenience, injure yourself; and thereby render me a disservice; for if this should happen under present circumstances, my affairs in the absence of both the Major and myself, will be thrown into a disagreeable situation. I had rather therefore hear that you had nursed, than exposed yourself. And the things which I sent from this place (I mean the Wine, Tea, Coffee and Sugar) and such other matters as you may lay in by the Doctrs. directions for the use of the Sick, I desire you will make use of, as your own personal occasions, may require.

I have written, as you will see by the enclosed, long letters, both to Thos. Green and the Gardner; in hopes to impress them with the necessity, and to stimulate them to the practice of proper exertions during mine, and the absence of my Nephew. The letters are left open for your perusal and delivery; it is unnecessary therefore for me, in this letter, to repeat the contents of either of the others.

By the Plan of the Barn and treading floor for Dogue run, which I sent you in one of my last letters, you will readily perceive by the mode in which the treading floor of 2½ Inchs. square stuff is laid, what I meant by progressive lengths from 12 to 20 feet. The inner part of the double Sections, next the Octagon, is 12 feet only; the outer part is 20; consequently,

every piece increases in length as it approaches the exterior line in a progressive ratio.

The old horses may be disposed of as you shall judge best for my interest. I am well aware that an old horse adds more to the expence than to the profit of a Farm.

I am very sorry to find that my prospect of a Wheaten Crop is lessening. I shall be anxious to learn the final result of its yield. and wish to hear how the Corn turns out upon being stripped of the Shuck; and how your Potatoes yield; as I perceive you have been digging the latter, and husking the former? As it is proposed to cultivate field No. 4 at Dogue Run next year in Potatoes, would it not have been better if the Crop of this Root which grows there, could be well secured against damage and thefts, to let them remain at that place? for I question if many more will be made than what will be required for that field. Eight bushels, or thereabouts, is usually allowed to an Acre when planted in drills 3 feet apart, of course 74 acres will take near 600 bushels.

I am told by some of the Farmers in the vicinity of this City, that if the Apricot Potatoes are planted early, they will come off in time for wheat; if so, and the ground be well worked during the growth of them, it must be in excellent preparation for the Seed.

I send you under cover with this letter, a little of the double eared Wheat. Plant it in drills as soon as you get it, somewhere in the Vineyard, where the soil is, or can readily be made, good. It is worth trying what it can be brought to.

Let the Gardener put all the Seeds of the Sugar maple in the ground this Fall; but not to cover them more than very slightly indeed, with Earth. What kind of preparation, and what kind of a Crop do you mean to put the clover lot (front of the house) into, in order to prepare it for Grass? Potatoes would be the

best, but I do not expect you will have enough for Dogue Run and this place too. Let me again request that every thing that is not intended to remain, and live in that enclosure may be effectually eradicated; for reasons wch. I have often enumerated. When this inclosure is prepared for Grass, let all the Brick bats in the Road which formerly led through it, be picked up and brought off. and let that part of it, towards the decline of the Hill, which is naked and bare, be broke up, improved, and sown, to give it a better appearance as the house is approached. And it would be a pleasing thing to me if this entire Inclosure, from the present mowing ground on the height *quite* down to the marsh, and wet ground of H—— Hole; from the Mouth up to Richards house, could be most effectually grubbed and cleared (except such clumps or single trees, as one would wish to leave for Ornament. What the quantity of it may be, I am unable to say; but if you conceive that the House gang, with such aids as you can derive from River Plantation, where I think the people, during Winter, can have very little to do, and from the Ferry and French's, where they cannot have much, I should be glad to have it undertaken; since the idea of clearing for Corn, for Muddy hole, without the Gates at Mansion house is relinquished. As the home house people (the industrious part of them at least) might want ground for their truck patches, they might, for this purpose, cultivate what would be cleared. But I would have the ground from the cross fence by the Spring, quite round by the Wharf, first grubbed, before the (above mentioned) is attempted.

It would be difficult for me, if I was ever so well disposed, to procure the full quantity of Clover seed mentioned in your memm; as it is (from such information as I have received) both scarce and dear in these parts. but while I am on this subject, I beg that whatever you do sow (if covered at all) may be

very slightly covered. Harrowing Clover Seed in, in the vicinity of this City is quite dis-used, and I never saw better Clover any where than is about it. Five or Six lbs of Seed, if they can depend upon its goodness, is all they allow to an Acre; and in no case more than 10 lbs, or as many pints. I mention these things for your government; and that, from experience they find no better Season for Sowing than towards the last of Winter, or opening of the Spring, on Winter grain, leaving it to the Snow or Frosts to bury the Seeds.

I do not discover by your letters, or the Reports that your Porkers are yet up. It is high time this was done, and I desire that no Hogs, except such as are of sufficient age, and size may be fattened. I had rather have a little good, than much bad, Porke.

By your last Weeks Report, I perceive 80 Bushels of Wheat was sent from River Plantation to the Mill and 79 only received at it. detect, always, these differences as soon as they happen, and it will explain mistakes, and check many abuses which otherwise would be committed. And I am sorry to find that scarcely any report comes to hand without mentioning the death of several Sheep. If the Overseers begin thus early to report deaths, what may I not expect to receive between this and May?

I think you had better turn Sam and George over to the Gardener, that their work may appear in his Report. And Davis and Nuclus in like manner to Green. Sims also if you think he had better remain with the Carpenters. This will simplify the Mansion house report greatly, and let me see more clearly what that gang are employed in. At present that head of the Report is swelled greatly and nothing hardly appears to be done by the people comprehended under it. If Peter does *any* work at all it is in the Gardening line. He therefore had better be turned

over to him, though I believe he will do nothing that he can avoid, of labour.

Supply Green and the Gardener with Paper that they may have no excuse for not giving in their Reports and see that they accompany your own every Week. I am etc.

PS. Doll at the Ferry must be taught to Knit, and *made* to do a sufficient days work of it; otherwise (if suffered to be idle) many more will walk in her Steps. Lame Peter if no body else will, must teach her, and she must be brought to the house for that purpose.

Tell house Frank I expect he will lay up a more plentious store of the black common Walnut than he usually does. Nor ought he to spend his time wholly in idleness.

FOURTH ANNUAL ADDRESS TO CONGRESS

November 6, 1792.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: It is some abatement of the satisfaction, with which I meet you on the present occasion, that in felicitating you on a continuance of the National prosperity, generally, I am not able to add to it information that the Indian hostilities, which have for some time past distressed our North Western frontier, have terminated.

You will, I am persuaded, learn, with no less concern than I communicate it, that reiterated endeavors, toward effecting a pacification, have hitherto issued only in new and outrageous proofs of persevering hostility, on the part of the tribes with

The following note is entered in the "Letter Book" under date of November 5: "The President informed the Committee [consisting of Mr. Strong and Mr. Izard from the Senate, and Mr. Boudinot, Mr. Key, and Mr. Moore, from the House] that he would meet both Houses tomorrow at twelve O'Clock, in the Senate Chamber, and lay before them such communications as he thought proper for the occasion."

whom we are in contest. An earnest desire to procure tranquillity to the frontier; to stop the further effusion of blood; to arrest the progress of expense; to forward the prevalent wish of the Nation, for peace, has led, through various channels, to strenuous efforts, to accomplish these desirable purposes: In making which efforts, I consulted less my own anticipations of the event, or the scruples, which some considerations were calculated to inspire, than the wish to find the object attainable; or if not attainable, to ascertain unequivocally that such is the case.

A detail of the measures, which have been pursued, and of their consequences, which will be laid before you, while it will confirm to you the want of success, thus far, will, I trust, evince that means as proper and as efficacious as could have been devised, have been employed. The issue of some of them, indeed, is still depending; but a favourable one, though not to be despaired of, is not promised by anything that has yet happened.

In the course of the attempts which have been made, some valuable citizens have fallen victims to their zeal for the public service. A sanction commonly respected even among savages, has been found, in this instance, insufficient to protect from Massacre the emissaries of peace. It will, I presume, be duly considered whether the occasion does not call for an exercise of liberality towards the families of the deceased.

It must add to your concern, to be informed, that besides the continuation of hostile appearances among the tribes North of the Ohio, some threatening symptoms have of late been revived among some of those south of it.

A part of the Cherokees, known by the name of Chickamagas, inhabitating five Villages on the Tennesee River, have been long in the practice of committing depredations on the neighbouring settlements.

It was hoped that the treaty of Holstin, made with the Cherokee nation in July 1791, would have prevented a repetition of such depredations. But the event has not answered this hope. The Chickamagas, aided by some Banditti of another tribe in their vicinity, have recently perpetrated wanton and unprovoked hostilities upon the Citizens of the United States in that quarter. The information which has been received on this subject will be laid before you. Hitherto defensive precautions only have been strictly enjoined and observed.

It is not understood that any breach of Treaty, or aggression whatsoever, on the part of the United States, or their Citizens, is even alleged as a pretext for the spirit of hostility in this quarter.

I have reason to believe that every practicable exertion has been made (pursuant to the provision by law for that purpose) to be prepared for the alternative of a prosecution of the war, in the event of a failure of pacific overtures. A large proportion of the troops authorized to be raised, has been recruited, though the number is still incomplete. And pains have been taken to discipline and put them in condition for the particular kind of service to be performed. A delay of operations (besides being dictated by the measures which were pursuing towards a pacific termination of the war) has been in itself deemed preferable to immature efforts. A statement from the proper department with regard to the number of troops raised, and some other points which have been suggested, will afford more precise information, as a guide to the legislative consultations; and among other things will enable Congress to judge whether some additional stimulus to the recruiting service may not be adviseable.

In looking forward to the future expense of the operations, which may be found inevitable, I derive consolation from the information I receive, that the product of the revenues for the

present year, is likely to supersede the necessity of additional burthens on the community, for the service of the ensuing year. This, however, will be better ascertained in the course of the Session; and it is proper to add, that the information alluded to proceeds upon the supposition of no material extension of the spirit of hostility.

I cannot dismiss the subject of Indian affairs without again recommending to your consideration the expediency of more adequate provision for giving energy to the laws throughout our interior frontier, and for restraining the commission of outrages upon the Indians; without which all pacific plans must prove nugatory. To enable, by competent rewards, the employment of qualified and trusty persons to reside among them, as agents, would also contribute to the preservation of peace and good neighbourhood. If, in addition to these expedients, an eligible plan could be devised for promoting civilization among the friendly tribes, and for carrying on trade with them, upon a scale equal to their wants, and under regulations calculated to protect them from imposition and extortion, its influence in cementing their interests with our's could not but be considerable.

The prosperous state of our Revenue has been intimated. This would be still more the case, were it not for the impediments, which in some places continue to embarrass the collection of the duties on spirits distilled within the United States. These impediments have lessened, and are lessening in local extent, and as applied to the community at large, the contentment with the law appears to be progressive.

But symptoms of increased opposition having lately manifested themselves in certain quarters, I judged a special interposition on my part, proper and adviseable; and under this impression, have issued a proclamation, warning against all

unlawful combinations and proceedings, having for their object or tending to obstruct the operation of the law in question, and announcing that all lawful ways and means would be strictly put in execution for bringing to justice the infractors thereof, and securing obedience thereto.

Measures have also been taken for the prosecution of offenders: and Congress may be assured, that nothing within Constitutional and legal limits, which may depend on me, shall be wanting to assert and maintain the just authority of the laws. In fulfilling this trust, I shall count intirely upon the full cooperation of the other departments of Government, and upon the zealous support of all good Citizens.

I cannot forbear to bring again into the view of the Legislature the subject of a revision of the Judiciary System. A representation from the Judges of the Supreme Court, which will be laid before you, points out some of the inconveniences that are experienced. In the course of the execution of the laws, considerations arise out of the structure of that System, which, in some cases, tend to relax their efficacy. As connected with this subject, provisions to facilitate the taking of bail upon processes out of the Courts of the United States, and supplementary definition of Offences against the Constitution and laws of the Union, and of the punishment for such Offences, will, it is presumed, be found worthy of particular attention.

Observations on the value of peace with other Nations are unnecessary. It would be wise, however, by timely provisions, to guard against those acts of our own Citizens, which might tend to disturb it, and to put ourselves in a condition to give that satisfaction to foreign Nations which we may sometimes have occasion to require from them. I particularly recommend to your consideration the means of preventing those aggressions

by our Citizens on the territory of other nations, and other infractions of the law of Nations, which, furnishing just subject of complaint, might endanger our peace with them. And in general, the maintenance of a friendly intercourse with foreign powers will be presented to your attention by the expiration of the law for that purpose, which takes place, if not renewed, at the close of the present session.

In execution of the Authority given by the legislature, measures have been taken for engaging some artists from abroad to aid in the establishment of our mint; others have been employed at home. Provision has been made for the requisite buildings, and these are now putting into proper condition for the purposes of the establishment. There has also been a small beginning in the coinage of half-dismes; the want of small coins in circulation calling the first attention to them.

The regulation of foreign Coins in correspondency with the principles of our national coinage, as being essential to their due operation, and to order in our money concerns, will, I doubt not, be resumed and completed.

It is represented that some provisions in the law, which establishes the Post-Office, operate, in experiment, against the transmission of newspapers to distant parts of the Country. Should this, upon due inquiry, be found to be the case, a full conviction of the importance of facilitating the circulation of political intelligence and information, will, I doubt not, lead to the application of a remedy.[15]

[15] On December 31 Lear wrote to the Postmaster General: "In reply to your letter of this date requesting me to inform you of the facts or representations communicated to the President relative to newspapers, which led him to notice them in his Speech at the opening of the present session of Congress; I have the honor to inform you that it was represented to the President in such a way as to place the fact beyond a doubt in his mind, that in consequence of the rate of postage imposed on the transmission of Newspapers by the Post-office Law, many persons in Virginia who had heretofore taken Newspapers from this City, had declined receiving them any

The adoption of a Constitution for the State of Kentucky has been notified to me. The Legislature will share with me in the satisfaction which arises from an event interesting to the happiness of the part of the Nation to which it relates, and conducive to the general Order.

It is proper likewise to inform you, that since my last communication on the subject, and in further execution of the Acts severally making provision for the public debt, and for the reduction thereof, three new loans have been effected, each for three millions of Florins. One at Antwerp, at the annual interest of four and one half per Cent, with an Allowance of four per Cent in lieu of all charges; and the other two at Amsterdam, at the annual interest of four per Cent, with an allowance of five and one half per Cent in one case, and of five per Cent in the other in lieu of all charges. The rates of these loans, and the circumstances under which they have been made, are confirmations of the high state of our Credit abroad.

Among the objects to which these funds have been directed to be applied, the payment of the debts due to certain foreign Officers, according to the provision made during the last Session, has been embraced.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: I entertain a strong hope that the state of the national finances is now sufficiently matured to enable you to enter upon a Systematic and effectual arrangement for the regular redemption and discharge

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longer; and that many others declared that they only continued to take them under a full persuasion that the rate of postage would be reduced during the present Session of Congress, and that if such reduction should not take place, they would desire the printers to stop their papers.

"In addition to these strong marks of disapprobation of the rate of postage on newspapers given by individuals, he was informed that the public mind, so far as it had been expressed in that quarter on the subject, appeared very anxious that an alteration should take place in that part of the post office Law which relates to the transmission of Newspapers."

This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

of the public debt, according to the right which has been reserved to the Government. No measure can be more desireable, whether viewed with an eye to its intrinsic importance, or to the general sentiment and wish of the Nation.

Provision is likewise requisite for the reimbursement of the loan which has been made for the Bank of the United States, pursuant to the eleventh section of the Act by which it is incorporated. In fulfilling the public stipulations in this particular, it is expected a valuable saving will be made.

Appropriations for the current service of the ensuing year, and for such extraordinaries as may require provision, will demand, and, I doubt not, will engage your early attention.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives: I content myself with recalling your attention, generally, to such objects, not particularized in my present, as have been suggested in my former communications to you.

Various temporary laws will expire during the present Session. Among these, that which regulates trade and intercourse with the Indian Tribes, will merit particular notice.

The results of your common deliberations, hitherto, will, I trust, be productive of solid and durable advantages to our Constituents; such as, by conciliating more and more their ultimate suffrage, will tend to strengthen and confirm their attachment to that constitution of Government, upon which, under Divine Providence, materially depend their Union, their safety and their happiness.

Still further to promote and secure these inestimable ends, there is nothing which can have a more powerful tendency, than the careful cultivation of harmony, combined with a due regard to stability, in the public Councils.[16]

[16] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. A rough draft, in Alexander Hamilton's writing, is in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 7, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I lay before you copies of certain papers relative to the Spanish interference in the execution of the Treaty entered into in the year 1790, between the United States and the Creek nation of Indians, together with a letter from the Secretary of State to the President of the United States on the same subject.[17]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, November 7, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: In pursuance of the law, I now lay before you a statement of the administration of the funds appropriated to certain foreign purposes, together with a letter from the Secretary of State, explaining the same.

I also lay before you

A Copy of a letter and representation from the Chief Justice and Associate Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, stating the difficulties and inconveniences which attend the discharge of their duties, according to the present Judiciary System,

A Copy of a letter from the Judges attending the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of North Carolina in June last, containing their observations on An Act passed

[17] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Copies of the inclosures are entered in the "Letter Book" immediately following this message.

during the last session of Congress, entitled "An Act to provide for the settlement of the Claims of Widows and Orphans barred by the limitations heretofore established, and to regulate the Claims to Invalid Pensions," And,

A Copy of the Constitution formed for the State of Kentucky[18]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, November 9, 1792.[19]

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I now lay before you a letter from the Secertary of State covering the copy of one from the Governor of Virginia, with the several papers therein referred to,[20] on the subject of the boundary between that State and the Territory of the United States south of the Ohio. It will remain with the Legislature to take such measures as it shall think best for settling the said boundary with that State, and at the same time if it thinks proper, for extending the settlement to the State of Kentucky, between which and the same territory the boundary is as yet undetermined.[18]

To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, November 11, 1792.

Mr. Whiting: Since my last, I have received your letters of the 2d and 7th instant, and shall notice such parts of them as

[18] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Copies of these documents, except the constitution of Kentucky, are entered in the "Letter Book" immediately following this message.

[19] This day at 11 o'clock the Senate waited upon the President at his house, when John Langdon, President *pro tem.* delivered an address, dated November 8, to which the President replied. This address and the reply are entered in the "Letter Book."

[20] The inclosures mentioned are entered in the "Letter Book" immediately following this message.

require it, and give such directions respecting my business, committed to your management, as may occur to me.

I shall again express my wish, and, as the raising of corn at the Mansion-House is given up, will also add my anxiety, to have all the ground (except single trees and clumps here and there) cleared, and well cleared, as mentioned in a former letter, between the old clover lot and the sunken ground quite from the wharf to Richard's house and the gate; but, previously, do what has been desired from the cross fence by the spring, to the wharf. In clearing the whole of this ground, let all the ivy and flowering trees and shrubs remain on it, over and above the clumps, and other single trees where they may be thought requisite, for ornament. The present growing pines within that enclosure might be thinned, and brought more into form. When this is done, and all the low land from the river up to the gate laid down in grass, it will add much to the appearance of the place, and be a real benefit and convenience, as it will yield an abundance of grass.

All the hands, that can be conveniently spared, may be kept steadily at this work until it is accomplished, or till they are called off for other essential purposes. The ditchers too, when not employed about more essential work, may aid in this. And it will be necessary for you to think of some crop for the new part of the ground, that will require cultivation through the summer; otherwise the clearing of it will be labor in vain, as in a year or two, without cultivation, it will be as foul as ever.

By a vessel called the *President,* Captain Carhart, you will receive, I hope, the articles contained in the enclosed invoice and bill of lading. The linen, I expect will be cut out and used to the best advantage. You will perceive there are two prices; let that, which bears the lowest price, be given to the boys and girls, and the highest price and best, to the grown and most

deserving men and women, and the surplus (for there is more than you required) be put away securely.

The mulberry trees may be planted about in clumps, as mentioned in my letter by last post to the Gardener. They are not trimmed, because, as I am informed, these trees may be propagated by cuttings from them, and save me the trouble and expense of sending more from this place. With respect to the shrubs from Mr. Bartram's[21] botanical garden, directions at the foot of the list[22] are given so fully, as to render it unnecessary to add aught concerning them in this letter; but the grapes the Gardener must take particular care of, as they are of a very fine kind.

I send you also, under cover with this letter, some seeds, which were given to me by an English farmer from the county of Essex, in England, lately arrived in this country to settle, and who appears to be a very sensible and judicious man, and a person of property. He also gave me a pamphlet upon the construction of the kind of plough, which he has used for

[21] John Bartram.

[22] This list is in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge and is in the *Washington Papers* under date of Nov. 7, 1792. Washington's directions, in his writing, follow the list and are:

"The intention of giving the heights to which they may grow, is, that except in the centre of the Six Ovals in the West Lawn; and at each end of the two large Ovals; none of the tall, or lofty growing trees (ever-greens) are to be planted. But this I would have done in all of them whether any thing occupies these particular spots, or not: removing them if they do, to some other parts of the afore said Ovals. At each end of the 4 Smaller Ovals, trees of midling growth (for instance those which rise to 15, 20, or even to thirty feet) may be planted. My meaning is, that in the Centre of every Oval (if it is not already there) one of the lofty growing trees should be planted; and the same done at each end of the two large Ovals; and at the ends of the 4 Smaller ones, trees of lesser size to be planted. The other parts of all of them to receive the Shrubs, putting the tallest, always, nearest the Middle, letting them decline more into dwarfs towards the outer parts. This was my intention when they were planted in the Ovals last Spring; but I either did not express myself clearly or the directions were not attended to. I now hope they will be understood, and attended to both. The two trees marked thus (*) in the Margin, I would have planted by the Garden gates opposite to the Spruce Pines. I believe common pine are now in the places where I intend these, but they may be removed, being placed there merely to fill up the space. If any of these tall growing trees are now in any

many years; and the principles for putting the parts together, to make it work true and easy, which I will send to you so soon as I shall receive it from a gentleman to whom I lent it. The plough is simple in its make. The oats, which he gave me as a sample, exceed very little, if any, what I have grown myself. They may, however, in the spring be put into the ground by single seeds, to try what can be made of them. The cattle cabbage may also be tried.

Mr. Lambert,[23] the name of the farmer from whom I had these things, says that the land, on which he and his father before him have lived for fifty or sixty years, is a stiff white clay; and, being at a distance from any source of manure, besides that which is made on the farm, they have pursued a different mode of cropping from that which is usually followed in England; and by so doing, with the aid of the internal manure of the farm, they have brought their poor, stiff land, which originally did not yield them more than five or six bushels of wheat to the acre, and other grain in proportion,

other part of the Ovals, except those here mentioned (and that you may be enabled better to ascertain this, I send you a list of what went from Bartrams Garden last Spring) I would have them removed, so as to conform to these directions; and if there be more with what are now sent, than are sufficient to comply with these directions, there may be one on each side of the two large Ovals making five in each. You will observe that the Pinus Strobus (or white Pine) are the loftiest of all the Fall trees which now are, or have been sent; and that it is these which are to form your centre trees; and the end trees of the two large Ovals.

"I must request also, that except the large trees for the Centre and sides no regularity may be observed in planting the others in the Ovals. This I particularly desired last Spring, but found when I got home it was not attended to.

"When you have disposed of all the trees and Shrubs agreeably to these directions return this Paper, and the general list which accompanies it, back again to me; as I may have occasion for them in procuring plants in future.

"Note. If there are now growing in the Ovals, as many as 4 of the Hemlock Spruce (sent last Spring) let them be taken up when the ground is hard and deep frozen in the Winter, and placed on the sides of the two large Ovals instead of the White Pines, wch you might have put there in consequence of the aforegoing directions." The two trees are starred in the Bartram List, and are: "Pinus communis E 20. 40. 60. a stately tree; foliage of a Seagreen colour, and exhibits a good appearance whilst young (Scotch Fir). Pinus Laring E 40 to 60. Elegant figure and foliage."

[23] John Lambert.

to produce very generally from twenty-five to thirty of wheat, and from forty to fifty of barley. Their method has been to keep the arable land always perfectly clean, and alternately in crop or fallow; that is, to take a corn crop from it one year, and have it under the plough in a naked fallow, by way of preparation for the next crop, the next year; beginning this fallow in the autumn, when the ground is dry, again in the spring, as soon as it becomes dry, and three or four times after, before seeding for wheat (if wheat is the crop); never ploughing it wet, which is the cause, he says, of its running. He seems to understand the principles as well as the practice of husbandry, being a sensible man, and inured for a number of years (I suppose he is sixty) to the labor and practice of it. He has travelled a good deal about this country, and is of opinion that our great error lies in not keeping our arable land clean, and free from weeds. I observed to him, that the people of this country are of opinion, that naked fallows under our hot sun are injurious. He will not by any means admit the principle or the fact; but ascribes the impoverished state of our lands and bad crops to the weeds which he everywhere sees, and which both exhaust and foul it. By constant ploughing, these, he says, are eradicated; and when the fields come to be laid in grass, which is sown, the hay will be pure and unmixed with any thing hurtful to it.

The giving way of the post and rail fencing proves, in a strong point of view, the necessity of seeing that all which is made hereafter be of a more substantial kind; that is, the posts larger, and the rails shorter; and it proves, too, the necessity of what I can never too often nor too strongly impress upon you, and that is, to begin and make a business of rearing hedges, without the loss of a single season; for really there is no time to lose. Set about it effectually. I am sure every plantation is

now of sufficient force to spare labor for this purpose; not merely to scratch a little trench along the banks of the ditches, and therein put a few seeds, or cuttings, among weeds, briars, and every kind of trash, which will prevent their coming up, or choke them if they do. I would wish to have the seeds or cuttings of any thing tried, rather than that the attempt should be delayed, as it has hitherto been, from one season to another.

Desire Thomas Green to date his reports. That of the week before last I send back for explanation of his measurement of the sawing. I fancy it will puzzle him to make out 508 feet in the twenty-four plank there set down; for, as plank, length and breadth only could be measured. This would amount to no more than 296 feet. As scantling, length and side and edge would be measured, and this would give only about 310 or 312 feet. If he goes on at this rate, he will, in appearance, amend their work, though it will not in reality be any better. But, admitting that the true admeasurement was 508 feet, this would make but a miserable quantity for the time they were about it. That these people (sawyers I mean) may have no pretence for such idleness, not only get them two saws, but let them be of the largest and best kind. I have already told you, that the oak scantling is to be got on the estate, and the place where. Let Thomas Green, while he is in the Neck, repair the overseer's house, as well as it can be done at this season. The scantling that is to be bought, should be got as soon as possible, that the carpenters may be framing it in the winter, or early in the spring.

Direct the miller to report every week the state of his manufactory of the wheat; as well as the receipts and delivery of the grain into and from the mill, that I may see how he proceeds in that business, and what flour he has on hand, that I may govern my directions accordingly.

I am very well satisfied with the reasons you assign for opening my letter to Mrs. Fanny Washington. It might, as you observe, have contained a request, which, as she was gone, you might have complied with.

You have never mentioned in any of your letters what has become of the mare I left at Georgetown, and which was to have been sent to Mount Vernon. I hope she got there safe, and is now well; in that case you may, occasionally, ride her; keeping her in good order against I may call for her.

How does your growing wheat look at this time? I hope no appearance of the Hessian fly is among it. On Patuxent, not far from you, I am told it is making such havoc amongst the growing wheat, as to render it necessary to sow over again. I am sorry to find No. 1, at French's, turn out so poor a crop of wheat, and that the fields at Muddy Hole have yielded still worse. How much wheat at that place came off the lot by the overseer's house?

In ploughing fields No. 3 and No. 4, Dogue Run, let them be so begun as that the rows when planted may run north and south, or as nearly so as the situation of the fields will admit.

In making your weekly reports, instead of referring to the preceding week or weeks, for the state of your stock of different kinds, enumerate the number of each. I shall have it in my power then to see at one view the precise state of it without resorting to old accounts. And let me entreat, that you will examine them yourself, frequently, as a check upon the overseers; without which, rather than be themselves at the trouble of counting them, they will make you that kind of general report.

The coffee and tea, that I sent you some time ago, you are very welcome to use, and it is my desire you should do it.

The sheriff's bill for the taxes, which you paid while I was at home, cannot here be got at, as it is filed amongst my papers;

but, as I want a copy of it for a particular reason, I should be glad if you would procure one from the sheriff, and send it to me exactly as it was handed in and paid. I want no receipt annexed to it. The account only is all I desire, containing the whole items of charges. I am your friend and well-wisher,

P. S. In clearing the wood, mark a road by an easy and graduated ascent from the marsh or low ground, up the hollow which leads into the lot beyond the fallen chestnut, about midway of the lot; and leave the trees standing thick on both sides of it, for a shade to it. On the west side of this hollow, if I recollect rightly, there was an old road formerly, but not laid out agreeably to the directions here given. It would look well, and perhaps might be convenient, if there was a road on both sides of this hollow, notwithstanding the hill-side on the east is steep. At any rate, trees where the road would go, if made, might be left for future decision, as they might also be along the side of the low land at the foot of the hill quite from the wharf to the gate by Richard's house. If that meadow should ever be thoroughly reclaimed, and in good grass, a walk along the edge of it would be an agreeable thing; and leaving trees for this purpose may not be amiss, as they may at any time be removed, although time only can restore them if taken away in the first instance. And this would be a good general rule for you to observe in other parts of the same ground; as, if too thick, they can always be thinned; but, if too thin, there is no remedy but time to retrieve the error.[24]

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[24] The text is from Sparks. Ford prints extracts of it.

On November 12 the House of Representatives met the President at his house and delivered an address dated November 10, to which a brief reply was made. Both address and reply are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On November 13 Washington signed an order on the Treasurer of Virginia, to pay to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, "the second installment of the monies granted by the state of Virginia" toward the erection of the public buildings. The draft of this order, in the writing of Thomas Jefferson, is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, November 14, 1792.

Mr. Whiting: Your letter of the 9th came to my hands last night, and though I am much hurried, will briefly observe, that I had rather repair my Seins, and fish myself, than hire the landing with the Negros. If a good price could be obtained for the Landing without the Negros, and an express prohibition of waggons coming thither, I should like, and would prefer that. But at any rate repair, and keep the Seins dry and out of the way of Mice, that you may have an alternative. In the mean while, give it out, and make it as public as you can, that the landing alone, or landing and Boat, (with the prohibition above) is to be Rented; but that the Person renting is to furnish me with a certain quantity of Shad and Herring, to be specified, in the early part of the Season. Or if the Boat is reserved, I could easily catch what fish I should want at the landing by Bishops House; which used to be, and no doubt still is, a good fishery. If after giving this notice, and enquiring what Colo. Mason used to receive for his *best* landing, and what others, on both sides of the River get for theirs, you should have an Offer from a person of good character, and in whom confidence could be placed, similar to what is given for the best; I would advise you to take it. and either secure the fish wanted for my own use from them, or reserve the Boat, and catch for yourself at the Mansion House.

It will no doubt occur to you, when you are making enquiry into the Rent received by Colo. Mason and others, whether the Landings are furnished with convenient and secure houses, as mine is, for curing and preserving the Fish; and make the difference in the price if they are not, which these are entitled to.

It is not in my power to fix a Rent or hire for the Landing,

because I do not know the usual price of the best, with the conveniences mine have; and this I must take, or not Rent. Take care, if you should hire it, to stipulate that the person hiring shall have nothing to do with the Shore after the Shad and Herring Season is over, nor with the Houses beyond a limited time; otherwise, I might sustain unexpected inconveniences.

I presume, it would be better for me to take £25 for the Stallion than have him to Winter and therefore consent to its being done.

Among other reasons for not hiring my hands with the Shore is, that I do not want to take them so long from the ground I wish to get in prime order in, and between the old Clover lot and H—— Hole. I am etc.

*To BENJAMIN STODDERT

Philadelphia, November 14, 1792.

Sir: Your favor of the 24th Ulto. came duly to hand, but the variety of important matters which pressed between the receipt of it, and the meeting of Congress, allowed me no time to give it an earlier acknowledgment: and now, I pray you to consider what I am about to say, as coming from me in my private capacity.

It has always been my opinion, and still is so, that the Administration of the Affairs of the Federal City ought to be under the *immediate* direction of a judicious and skilful superintendant, appointed by, and subject to the orders of the Commissioners (who, in the eye of the law, are the responsible characters). One in whom is united knowledge of Men and things, industry, integrity, impartiality and firmness. And, that this person should reside on the Spot. This, I believe, is also the opinion of the Commissioners. and if they think Mr. Blodget

possesses these qualifications (I know very little of him myself, and after what has happened, shall be cautious in recommending) or, that he is the *most* competent character that presents who is willing to undertake, and ready to enter upon the duties of such an Office; their appointment of him will meet my entire approbation.

I can readily conceive, Sir, that the motives to your communication were pure and laudable, and shall give you credit for them accordingly. On my part, permit me to add, that I have a mind open to information, and a disposition always to correct abuses (that shall come properly before me) as far as I am able; but I am sure it is unnecessary to remark to a person of your observation, that from the two great interests which divide the Federal City, and the lesser ones into which these are branched, it will be found difficult if not impossible for any set of Commissioners whatsoever to steer clear of censure. One wants this thing, another wants that thing, and all or most of them, perhaps want things which our resources are incompetent to the accomplishment of. You will excuse my candour therefore, my good Sir, for observing that there is in my judgmt. but one line of conduct proper for these Gentlemen to pursue, and that is to take a comprehensive view of the trust reposed in them, the general expectation of the community at large, and the means to effect it. form their plans agreeably thereto upon sound and just principles and to see that they are carried into effect by whomsoever they shall employ in the Execution thereof, without regard to any local concern or interest whatsoever. Such a conduct will meet general approbation; and of none, I am persuaded more than your own. With esteem I am &c.[25]

[25] From *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Thursday Eveng., November 15, 1792.

The letter enclosed, intended for Govr. Blount[26] appears to me to be very proper.[27]

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, November 17, 1792.

Gentlemen: I have duly received your letter of the 13th of October, enclosing a list of the sale of lots in the federal City; with the prices of which I am more gratified than I am by the number which have been disposed of. I am pleased to find that several of your Mechanics were among the purchasers of lots, as they will not only, in all probability, be among the first improvers of them, but will be valuable citizens.

I agree with you in opinion that the ground in such eligible places as about the Capitol and the President's House, should not be sold in squares; unless there are some great and apparent advantages to be derived from specified buildings; immediate improvement, or something which will have a tendency to promote the advancement of the City.

The circumstances under which Mr. Blodget bid off the square near the Capitol, were such as occur at almost every public sale, and in that instance, his having done so, appeared very proper for the interest of the public: I agree, however, with you, that it would be best for the circumstance not to be generally known.

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[26] A press copy of Jefferson's letter to Governor Blount, Nov. 14, 1792, is in the *Jefferson Papers*.

[27] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

How far the idea which Mr. Blodget suggests of having an Agent to pass through the several States, to dispose of lots, might be beneficial or not, I am unable to say; but it appears to me, that if a respectable and responsible Character, in the principal town of each State, could be authorized to dispose of the public lots, as purchasers might appear; provided the matter could be so arranged that no confusion or inconvenience should arise from the same lot being disposed of by two or more agents, (which might possibly be done by monthly returns being made from the several Agents to the Commissioners, ascertaining the day, and even hour of each sale, to be by them confirmed previous to any payments: a small per Centum to be allowed the Vender; and all private sales to cease a month before every public sale) it would be a means of accommodating persons in different parts of the Union, and would expedite the sale of the lots. But this, as well as Mr. Blodgets suggestion (which rather appears to me to be hawking the lots about) must be weighed and determined upon according to your best judgment and information.

I think that a further public sale in the spring, or early in the summer, would be advantageous. For it is desireable that every opportunity which could be made convenient, on account of the season and other circumstances, to dispose of lots in this way, should be embraced.

In proportion as numbers become interested in the federal City, and the public works advance, a constant attendance at the spot will be more and more requisite on the part of those who superintend or direct the business thereof; and I am of opinion it will be found necessary, as neither of the Commissioners reside there, that some active and competent character, vested with proper authority by them, should be constantly on the ground to superintend the business carrying on there.

But who this person shall be, is altogether with yourselves to chuse, and the various and essential qualifications requisite in him will readily occur to you. With great esteem &c.[28]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, November 18, 1792.

Mr. Whiting: Your letters of the 9th. and 14th. instt. came duly to hand. To the first I hastily replied the morning after it was received, and shall add nothing further on that subject, in this letter, respecting the Fishery.

If the Mansn. house people are permanently distributed to the plantations, to which they are destined; or, as soon as they are so; let all the Overseers know that they are no longer to look to the House gang for any assistance: on the contrary, that the Work of every sort and kind whatsoever, is to [be] performed by the hands which are entrusted to them; Ditching alone excepted, and even this, when it is accompanied with a Post fence, they are to dig the holes for those Posts with their own people; for so long as they derive this *extra* assistance, and are helped out of every difficulty, they never will exert their own force to the best advantage; and the case invariably will be, that the House gang will be little more than an encouragement to their idleness instead of performing some settled work of their own, which will count, and tell something. I am sure, that every plantation is abundantly stocked with hands, fully adequate to all the purposes of it; except ditching; which they could not perform to *advantage*, although their *force* might be competent to it. There is but one case in which I can See any propriety in aiding of them; and that is, in work that can only be done at a *particular*

[28] From a press copy of the unsigned letter in the writing of Tobias Lear in *District of Columbia Letter and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

Season, or under *particular* circumstances, whether their own strength cannot effect it in the time limited by that season; or by those circumstances. For instance, clearing, or breaking up, a piece of ground which can not be touched after it is absorbed with Water: which reminds me to tell you, that if those spots in the Mill meadow, which could not be got into Corn last Summer, is not broke up before the ground gets too wet this fall, you will not reclaim it in the course of next year; which will be a *real* injury to that lot, and a grievous eye-sore to everyone that looks into it. This also is the case with the lot below it, and is the reason why I earnestly desire that no more may *ever* be attempted than can be *compleatly* accomplished; for I repeat, and repeat again; that I should be better satisfied in having *one* acre of Corn land, or meadow ground, well prepared and cultivated, than *two* Acres imperfectly done. In a word, these things are *never* really done if they are not *well* done.

After having given you these ideas so fully, and so strongly, it is hardly necessary to add, as my desire, that what will remain as the House gang, properly, may be kept *steadily* to work at that place; under Will, or some other, if he cannot keep them to their business. The work to be done there, has been pointed out in more letters than one; and as there is a good deal of Wood to be taken off the ground proposed to be cleared; and which may serve for Coal wood, fire wood, &ca.; and is very convenient; I have no doubt but your Axe-men belonging to the place I mean will *all* be employed therein, instead of going into the great Wood, and generally, as far out of sight as they can get, to cut Wood for the House.

All the young Cedars between the fence by the Spring, and the Wharf, that are of a size to be removed with safety, may, at a proper time, be taken up, and form a fence from the style (leading to the Spring) along the Post and Railing of the

Lucern Inclosure; and from the Corner of the Vineyard inclosure downwards, and parallel to the last. But my opinion is, that to insure there living, they ought not to be remov'd until the ground is hard froze, when they can be taken up with a large block of frozen earth adhering to their Roots. The efficacy of this I have proved most clearly. You did well to desire the Gardiner to preserve the Damsen cions, if there be enough of them to form one side of the fence to the Vineyard Inclosure; otherwise it would have too much the appearance of patch work to insert them there at all: And as that enclosure will contain fruit, principally, which is subject to great depridations; I have thought that the best live fence for that, except the side Marked above for Cedar, and I hesitate even there too, had better be of the Honey locust; the seed of which not to be put more than Six Inches a part; that when they get to any size they may be so close, stubborn, and formidable, as to prevent an escalade indeed I know of nothing that will so effectually, and at so small an expence, preserve what is within the Inclosure, as this plant.

The Gardener, I presume, ought to be acquainted with the proper Seasons for taking off, and setting out, the cuttings of the Lombardy Poplar, and those of the Weeping, and yellow Willow. If therefore you both agree that this is a proper one, I would have it set about fully, and compleatly; as there is nothing I have so much at heart as to introduce live fences around *every* Inclosure where Hogs are not suffered to be; and this is the case of all the inner Inclosures at the Mansion house, and division fences at the Plantations. One Inclosure, may be fenced with the cuttings of one thing, and another with another, according to your means; and the ground which seems best adapted to this, or that kind of Tree. Let me know what qty of the honey locust seed you have on hand, and take care to secure all those which may be on the Trees which grow by Johnstons Spring,

at the River Plantation. Let the ground wherein these cuttings or Seeds are to be deposited, be well prepared for the reception of them; for they were *absolutely* thrown away last year; and the labour, whatever it might be, has turned to no account. I do not perceive by any of the Reports that you have got any Cedar Berries, to (manage and) Sow as I directed. I fear it is now too late; as they were falling (and in the greatest abundance) about the time I left Mount Vernon.

You have entirely mistaken my idea respecting the conducting of the Water from the *present* Spring, and those I desired might be opened (to see what a body of it I could collect). Instead of carrying it to the Wharf, my intention was to carry the whole, as high up the side of the Hill as the level of it would admit when the whole should be united at, or below the Spring (according as the level would allow) until it was brought as far, and right opposite to, the River front of the Mansion House (that is to the Visto in a line with the two doors which I had opened whilst I was at home, by Stakes which I suppose may be standing there yet). I wanted to see how high up the side of that hill I could carry the Water, and what advantage I might hereafter turn it to: it was for this reason I wanted the Springs opened when they were low; and gums or half (old) barrels put into them; that a judgment might be formed of the quantity, &ca. and it was for this reason also I added, that the Ditchers might assist in conducting it. There will be some difficulty, I am sensible, in taking it over the sunken place East of the Spring House; but a trough would remove it: after which, the water would go on a level, as in the case of Sideland Meadows to the place I have in view. What banks there are to cut through between the Spring house, and the most Westerly Spring that would be worth opening, at, or beyond the Hound

kennel; or whether they lye as high as the Spring that is now used, if the level was traced, my memory is unable to inform me; but Water by cutting through, or winding round banks, may always be conducted to its own level. This, and carrying the aggregate quantity of what could be obtained, to the front of the House, was the objects I had in view.

I had like to have forgot to tell you that the Lombardy Poplars, and Weeping Willows in the Serpentine walks, may, as well as any others, be stripped to furnish you with cuttings, if necessary.

If the French furze is a fit thing for Hedging, and you have reason to believe the Seed is good, I am very glad you bought it. Whether it is best to sow the Seed where it is intended to remain, or in beds to transplant, you must decide for yourself; but that you may not be deceived by bad Seed, try a certain number of Seeds in a hot bed, or any other method which will force them, to see what proportion of them will come up: do the same by the Clover seed you have, that I may know what dependence to place on its goodness.

There is a plant or two which went from Bartrams Garden last Spring, which he recommended in strong terms as valuable for hedging. make the most you can of the one you say is living.

I am very glad to hear that your growing Wheat has a good appearance. Will the first Sowed, and thin Wheat, ever appear thick enough, especially in No. 7 in the Neck? It was not the getting of Fodder, generally, that injured the Corn: Stripping the blade I believe did, and said so at the time; but the great evil proceeded from its backwardness (occasioned by the long drought in Summer) and want of heat after the rains fell, to mature it.

Have you taken measures to save what Turnip Seed you may want next year? The purchase of these things ought, by all means to be avoided.

Inform me in your next how many Hogs you have up for Porke, at each place. The Robberies which all your letters relate, must be stopped by some means or another; or the consequences will inevitably be those I have mentioned in my last. It is growing worse and worse every day; and if a good deal of pains is not taken to discover the thieves, and the receivers, there is no telling where the evil will end.

I am willing to be at the expence of Sheep-bells, but this will prove but a partial remedy: the evil must be probed deeper than that.

The dificiency of Stockings is another instance of the villainy of those I have about me; for, as you justly observe, it is impossible that lame Peter and Sarah's work could amount to no more than 60 pair. The Gardener's Wife must *now* see that there is a just return of all that is given out and taken in, and when the work is handed over by her, to you, I am persuaded it will be safe. Let the Gardeners wife give work to, and receive it from, lame Peter as well as others; and then the whole will come under one head. Their reports ought to be dated.

What painting has Tom Davis done, and what paints have you now on hand?

Mrs. Washington desires you will order the Ashes to be taken care of, that there may be no want of Soap.

The note, at the foot of the last River plantation return, is by no means such as I expected, or would wish to see again; because it gives no idea of the real state of facts; as it respects the increase, and decrease of the Stock. My idea of this business is, that every change that takes place in the Stock in the course of the week, should be reported; that is, every lamb that falls, and every one that dies, ought to be *accurately* reported;

how else am I to form any opinion of the care taken of these, and other things; or to form any tolerable opinion of my business, if the reports are not from the *actual* state of things, but from what they may be, according to contingencies.

From the present appearance of things, I think it highly probable that in the course of the Winter, or Spring, Flour will bear a good price. I would have none of mine therefore sold without directions from me, but it might not be amiss, now and then, for you to give me some account of the Alexandria price of this Article, at least the disposal of it should escape me. In the meanwhile, if you should want money for any particular purpose, and have it not, advise me thereof, and it shall be sent to you. The price of Tobacco, and for the same reason, may also be mentioned to me. I am etc.

PS. As occasions may occur when Tea and other Spoons (better than Pewter) may be wanted in the absence of my family and the Majors at Mount Vernon, I do by this conveyance, send half a dozen of each; The hurry, and distress in which Mrs. Fanny Washington left Mount Vernon, occasioned omissions of many things, which otherwise would not have been the case. [M. L.]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia November 19, 1792.

Dear Sir: I have run over the four numbers of Genl. Green's letters to Congress, herewith returned; and find nothing contained in them, unmarked by you, which ought, in my opinion, to be withheld from the Public. Even those of the 3d. of Novr. 1780, tho' quite unnecessary, might pass with an explanatory note on the *then* value of our paper currency.

It probably is best to [leave] out the scored part of No. 1, page 14, although, I am persuaded, it is no more than a statement

of a fact, and not an unimportant one. In No. 4, latter part of page 57, nearly the same sentiment as that erazed is conveyed. I am etc.[29]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, November 22, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I send you herewith, the abstract of a supplementary arrangement[30] which has been made by me pursuant to the acts of the third day of March 1791, and the Eight day of May 1792 for raising a Revenue upon foreign and domestic distilled spirits, in respect to the subdivisions and officers which have appeared to me necessary, and to the allowances for their respective services to the Supervisors, Inspectors and other Officers of Inspection; together with estimates of the amount of compensation and charges.[21]

*OBSERVATIONS ON MAJOR GENERAL ANTHONY WAYNE'S LETTER OF THE 14TH INSTANT[32]

November 23 [1792].

It is unfortunate, and very extraordinary that he should have suspended an opinion with respect to the disposition of the

[29] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

Jefferson's note at the bottom of the letter states that Mathew Carey "was permitted to make from the Secretary of State's office a selection of state papers for publication particularly those, of the commander in chief, and of the Generals commanding in separate departments. he submitted his selection to me to see if it contained anything which ought not to be published. I marked a very few passages and stated them to the President. the above is his answer."

[30] Entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers* immediately following the message.

[31] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[32] Wayne's letter to Knox is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

army for the winter, from a vague report of Mr. H—— declaration concerning the Western Posts. If this had been founded he ought to have looked for it from a better source, or to have disregarded it altogether. *Now* I presume, it is too late to carry what *would,* (had he not been under false impressions) have been *his* plan, into execution. But I think he ought to be charged in strong and explicit terms to run the public to no more expence in the Barracks he is about to build, than what is *indispensably* necessary to cover and secure the Officers and Soldiers from the weather. avoiding *all decorations,* and *as much as possible all conveniences,* considering them selves as it were, under marching orders to remove *during Winter,* or in the *Spring,* according to events and circumstances.

ON WAYNE'S OF THE 16TH OF NOVEMBER[33]

The difficulty, and as he (G. W) calls it, the impracticability of providing Flour after the 15th. of June, is *New information,* which, if it had been given before, might have induced the authorisation of a larger Magazine of this article: and now, if it does not militate with the arrangement made with the Secretary of the Treasury, I should have no dis-inclination towards increasing the quantity. Of the Meat kind, after a sufficient quantity of that which is salted, is stored; the dependence ought surely to be on live Cattle; Stalled or Grass fed; As the expence of transportation in Carriages, or on Pack horses, would be immense. As flour must always be carried, there may, and I think ought to be[34] exertion used to get it forward in the best mode and time that can be embraced to the advanced Posts, for reasons which are too obvious to be mentioned.

[33] Not now found in the *Washington Papers.*
[34] The "Letter Book" copy inserts the word "every" at this point.

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

United States, November 24, 1792.

Sir: It appears to me necessary, that processes should issue without further delay, upon the Indictments found at the last Circuit Court held at York Town in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in reference to the Laws laying a duty on spirits distilled within the United States; and proper that they should be served by the marshal of the District of Pennsylvania in person. I am to desire, that the requisite arrangements may be taken, with the Attorney and Marshal of the before mentioned District, for these purposes; in doing which you are authorised to signify to the latter, my expectation of his immediate agency in the business.[35]

To ARTHUR CAMPBELL

Philadelphia, November 24, 1792.

Sir: While I acknowledge the rect. of your letter of the 20 ulto. on the subject of Indian Affairs in your quarter, and thank you for the information it contains, let me assure you that I am always ready to receive any information that relates to the public welfare; and as my sole view is to promote this to the utmost of my power and ability, I am ever open to the opinions of well informed persons in those matters with which their situation or circumstances may have given them an opportunity of being well acquainted: and I shall consider such information and sentiments as you may think proper to communicate on the occurrences which may take place in your quarter as a mark of attention. I am etc.[35]

[35] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, November 25, 1792.

Mr. Whiting: Your letter of the 21st. instant enclosing the Reports of the preceeding week was received yesterday; but the Sheriffs acct. of taxes was not, though mentioned, among the papers which were sent to me. As you think (as I do also) that the new part of the old Clover lot at the Mansion house had better be in Potatoes, Perhaps it would be well, to apply those you have, to this purpose; and instead of cultivating field No. 4 at Dogue run in this article, let it lay over; and in lieu thereof, fallow (with Buck Wheat for manure) No. 1 at that place, for Wheat. This is the rotation I had marked out for that plantation before you suggested Potatoes for No. 4, next year. By this alteration the last mentioned field will, as was intended, come into Corn in 1794; succeeding No. 3, which will be in that article next year; and succeeded by No. 5 the year following; that is, in 1795 and so on, bringing them all on, with Corn, in the order of their numbers. And this, considering you have not a sufficiency of Potatoes for both purposes (and I find it too expensive, and too much unlike a Farmer to be always upon the purchase of my Seeds), and that by the *double* dressing with Green manure No. 1 may be got in fine order for Wheat, if you can prepare and sow it with Buck Wheat early in the Spring, to be plowed in before harvest when seed enough is ripe to bring forward a second Crop for plowing in timously for Wheat Seeding. I feel more inclination for the adoption of this plan, than I do for planting No. 4 at Dogue Run with the Potatoes you have: especially as the quantity on hand are inadequate to the demand of that field, and because they are at the Mansion house in readiness for the other purpose. If

more than sufficient for which (allowing about 8 bushels to the Acre) the residue, instead of Turnips, may be planted in the old part of the same (Clover) lot or elsewhere as you may conceive best. Besides the reasons I have just mentioned, there are others which influence me to this change (which, as I do not perceive by the Reports that any work has yet been done in No. 4, can be made without any loss of labor) and these are, that No. 1 is running very much into *furrow gullies,* which will, in a little time, if not stopped, be of magnitude; and very injurious to it; but by being contiguous to the Corn fields, you have the means now at hand, to fill and smooth them for the plow with very little labour, wch. might not, and certainly would not, be the case another year after the Corn stalks, (than which nothing can be better calculated for filling these gullies) are removed and destroyed; and by altering the fence between the said No. 1 and the meadow (in the manner made known to you) it will place things as they ought to be without delay; and will moreover give No. 4 a year's more rest, which will be no disservice to it; whilst every thing in the rotation line will work more systematically by means of it. There is another thing, equally necessary, wanting in this field; and that is, assistance to the poor and washed parts of it: for these can receive no benefit from Buck Wheat, because more will grow on them: and to recover them before they get *quite* lost, is prudent and essential; as well for appearance as profit. The hedge row along the old race will best be cleared, and the bank levelled: in doing the first, leave here and there a tree or clump, for shade and ornament.

If Plants of the Drumhead and Cattle Cabbage can be raised in time, you might perhaps, find some part of the addition to the old clover lot very proper for them; and as they would require to be well cultivated, very proper also for the grass

which is (as soon as the new part of the ground is fully reclaimed and cleansed) to follow.

I am very willing, nay desirous, that part of the Vineyard Inclosure should be appropriated to raising *any* and *all* kinds of plants fit for hedging, or to repair hedges. Those of the most valuable and scarcer kind of plants for this purpose, may receive nourishment in my little Garden; as the Firze, for instance. But I am of opinion that all such hedges as are to be raised from the Seed; for instance, Cedar, Honey locust, White thorn, Sycamore, &ca. &ca., had better be sown in places where they are to remain, having the ground *well* prepared previous to the reception of it, and well attended to afterwards, for I have been very unsuccessful in all my transplantations.

The quantity of Grain received into the Mill weekly; the quantity of Meal, flour, Bran, &ca. delivered from it; and the quantity, and kind of flour that is packed in the course of it, and actually there; is all the report I want; that I may see at one view what *goes in,* what *comes out,* and what is *actually in the Mill;* barraled up of different sorts of flour; for I presume, as well to avoid dust, as petty robberies, the flour is packed as fast as it is ground, and that the Bran is brought away. This being the case, there can be no difficulty, nor trouble in makg. the Report; as I do not want the Wheat (after it gets in to the Garner) a second time measured, nor (supposing as above) any thing said of the unpacked flour.

If your growing Wheat is cut off, are you not able to discover by what insect it is done so as to describe it? Keep an attentive eye towards it, and let me know from time to time how this disaster progresses, and what the general appearance of your different fields is, and promises to be.

I wish to know, as soon as you can conveniently ascertain it, what the quantity of Buckwheat is, that you have made; what

grd. you mean to sow with it; and what quantity it will take to seed it (including No. 1 at Dogue run): and if your own stock shd. fall short, enquire at what price it could be obtained, delivered at Alexandria, and let me know the result. Let me know also, as soon as your Corn is measured, the total quantity made; what each field produced; and how much has been used, up to the period of rendering me the acct. of the New Corn.

I perceive by the last report that 8 Sheep are missing; but that it is not known whether taken from Dogue Run, or the Ferry or Frenchs. This confirms what I observed to you in my last, or one of my last letters, viz, that the Overseers know very little of what relates to their own Stock; giving in the number from *old reports* instead of from *actual weekly* counting; by which means half my Stock may be stolen, or eaten, before they are missed: whereas, a weekly, or even a more frequent Count of the Sheep, and inspection of the Hogs (articles most likely to be depredated upon) would prevent, or if not prevent, enable them to pursue while the Scent was hot, these atrocious villainies, and either bring them to light, or so alarm the perpetrators of them, as to make them less frequent. As the Overseers, I believe, conduct matters, a Sheep, or a Hog or two, may, every week, be taken without suspicion of it for months. An enquiry then comes too late; and I shall have to submit to one robbery after another, until I shall have nothing left to be robbed of.

I see alterations have been made in the Wheel, or Wheels of the Well, by the Quarter. How does it work now; what quantity of Water will it draw up in a given time; and what force is required to do it? that is to say, can the Children, or weak people about the Quarter, draw for themselves?

Mrs. Washington expected two barrels of *good* Shad would have come round with the things which were sent from Mount Vernon; but as this did not happen, take the first opportunity

of forwarding them to this place; and I believe Captn. Ellwood is, at this moment, or soon will be, at Alexandria.

It is now, I believe, ten or 12 months ago, since I desired that ten or 12 Shoots[36] might be put into a Stye, as soon as they were weaned, and well fed; to see what they could be brought to at a year old, (keeping an exact acct. of the expence) but whether it was ever done, or what the result of it was, I know not. I wish however that directions of this kind may be always duly attended. Few things will bear delay, but those of experiment worst of all; as it defeats the ascertaining of facts which might be of infinite importance; as in this very instance; for as the case now is, I am raising Hogs to a certain age for others, not for myself. Whereas, if this method would succeed, a stye by a house could not be robbed, and fewer Sows would raise more hogs; and I believe, at infinite less expence. I am, your friend, and well wisher.

To CLEMENT BIDDLE[37]

Philadelphia, November 28, 1792.

Sir: In obedience to the command of the President of the United States I have the honor to inform you, that while the president sincerely regrets the cause which prevents you from immediately executing in person the service which is required, relative to the processes issued at the Circuit Court against the persons indicted for a riot in Washington County; yet so strongly is he impressed with the propriety of this business being executed by the marshall in person, and so much does he rely on your judgment and zeal in the discharge of this duty, that he considers the inconveniences which might be

[36] Shoats.
[37] United States marshal for the Pennsylvania district.

occasioned by a small delay in the matter, as being less than the disadvantages which might result from it's being executed by a Deputy. The President is therefore willing that the execution of this service should be postponed for a short time, in hopes that your health will then be so well established as to enable you to perform it in person.

I have the honor etc.[38]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

United States, November 29, 1792.

It having been represented by the Director of the Mint, that the late rise in the price of Copper, and the difficulty of obtaining it, render it improbable that the quantity authorised to be procured can be had, unless some part of it be imported by the United States; it is therefore thought proper that measures should be taken to obtain a quantity from Europe on the public account; and as it is estimated that the sum of Ten thousand dollars will be necessary for this purpose, you are hereby requested, if consistent with the arrangements of the Treasury, to have a bill for the above sum drawn on the Bankers of the United States in Holland, payable to Mr. Pinckney our Minister in Great Britain.[39]

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[38] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[39] On November 29 Lear, by the President's command, informed Jefferson of this letter and added: "The President, however, suggests, that it would not perhaps be best to confine Mr. Pinckney strictly to Sweden for the purchase of the Copper, but to leave it to his discretion to obtain it where it can be had on the more advantageous terms, after calling his attention to Sweden, for the reason mentioned in the letter from the Director of the Mint to the Secretary of State." Lear's letter is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On December 30 Washington approved the letter from Jefferson to Pinckney of that date "but after mentioning Sweden as the Country *most* likely to obtain Copper from, I think it would be better not to confine him to the purchase there." This approval is in the *Jefferson Papers,* as is also a press copy of Jefferson's letter to Pinckney of December 30.

*To DAVID STUART

Philadelphia, November 30, 1792.

Dear Sir: Knowing that tomorrow is the time appointed for the monthly meeting of the Commissioners at George Town, I had intended to have written you a line or two on a particular subject by Wednesday's Post, but one thing or another put it out of mind until it was too late. I now set down to do it, as the letter in the common course of the Post will reach George Town on Monday, probably, before you shall have left that place.

You will consider what I am now about to say as a *private* communication; the object of which is only to express *more* freely than I did in my last letter to the Commissioners, the idea that is entertained of the necessity of appointing a Superintendant of the execution of the plans and measures wch. shall be resolved upon by the Commissioners of the federal City. one who shall always reside there, and being a man of skill and judgment, of industry and integrity, would from having a view of the business constantly before his eyes, be enabled to conduct it to greater advantage than the Commissioners can possibly do unless they were to devote their *whole* time to it. Instances of this are adduced by some of the Proprietors, particularly in the alteration which has taken place in the Bridge, the delay consequent thereof &ca. It is remarked by some of (the best disposed of) them, that although you meet monthly, spend much time together, and are truly anxious to forward this great object; yet, from the nature of the thing, you cannot acquire at those meetings the minute information which a proper character always on the spot would do; and which is indispensably necessary to do in order to avoid

mistakes, and to give vigor to the undertaking. And besides, add they, a man of fertile genius, and comprehensive ideas, would, by having the business always before him, seeing, shewing to, and conversing with Gentlemen who may be led, either by curiosity or an inclination to become adventurers therein, to view the City, obtain many useful hints by means of which, and his own reflections, might suggest many useful projects to the consideration of the Commissioners at their *stated,* (say) quarterly meetings; or at such occasional ones as he might, in cases of importance and emergency, be empowered to call.

But where, you may ask, is the character to be found who possesses these qualifications? I frankly answer I know not! Major L'Enfant (who it is said is performing wonders at the new town of Patterson) if he could have been restrained within proper bounds, and his temper was less untoward, is the only person with whose turn to matters of this sort I am acquainted, that I think fit for it. There may, notwithstanding, be many others although they are unknown to me.

Mr. Blodget seems to be the person on whom many eyes are turned, and among others who look that way, are some of the Proprietors. He has travelled, I am told, a good deal in Europe; and has turned his attention (according to his own Account) to Architecture and matters of this kind. He has staked much on the issue of the Law establishing the permanent residence; and is *certainly* a projecting genius, with a pretty general acquaintance: to which may be added, if he has any influence in this Country, it must be in a quarter where it is most needed; and where, indeed, an antidote is necessary to the poison which Mr. F——s C——t[40] is spreading; by insinuations, that the accomplishment of the Plan is no more to be expected than the fabric of a vision, and will vanish in like manner.

[40] Francis Cabot(?).

But whether with these qualifications, Mr. Blodget is a man of industry and steadiness, and whether (as soon as it is necessary) he would take up a settled abode there, are points I am unable to resolve. [As an Architect Mr. Jefferson has a high opinion of Mr. Hallet, but whether Mr. Hallent has qualities, and is sufficiently known to fit him for general superintendency I cannot even *pretend* to give an opinion upon. If Mr. Blodget is contemplated for this office, would it not be well to be *on* or *off* with him at once. I hear he is held in suspence on this head.]

Have you yet decided on a Plan for the Capitol? Mr. Carroll talked of their being sent hither. Is any thing done towards the foundation of the President's house? What number of lots are bona fide sold? In what squares do they lye? Let your Clerk send me a list. Do you receive offers to purchase at private Sale? If you have fixed on a time for another public Sale, ought not notice thereof to be *immediately* given, and measures adopted to make the thing known in Europe as well as in this Country: Inserting advertisements in the Gazettes of the latter at intervals between this and the sale, by way of remembrancer. A little expence in these would be profitably incurred: How does Ellicot go on? I am etc.[41]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, December 2, 1792.

Mr. Whiting: Your letter of the 22d of Novr. enclosing the Sheriffs accounts has been duly received; but no letter nor Report was receivd from you yesterday, as usual; which makes me fear that you are sick, or that some accident has happened; as I

[41] From *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress. The portion in brackets is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

have never missed, before, receiving on Saturday the letter and reports which you send to Alexandria on Wednesday. I am always anxious to hear once a week from home; and to be informed by the letter and Reports how my people are, and how my business is going on; and I am more desirous of it *now* when it remains to be told what the Crops of Wheat, Corn, and other things will turn out, than common.

You were perfectly right in discharging Jones.[42] He always appeared to me to be incapable of the management of a Plantation from his want of capacity; but for his insolent or wilful neglects there can be no excuse; and he would meet with no more than his deserts if he was made to pay for the damage my Wheat fields have sustained: for he had sufficient warning from myself, before I left home, to guard him against this evil. It is to such inattention, and want of exertion; together with the opportunities that are given to my Negros, that Robberies have got to the height they are. If some of the Nights in which these Overseers are frolicking, at the expence of my business, and to the destruction of my horses, were spent in watching the Barns, visiting the Negro quarters at unexpected hours, waylaying the Roads, or contriving some device by which the receivers of Stolen goods might be entrapped, and the facts proved upon them; it would be no more than the performance of a duty which I have a right to expect for the wages they draw from me; and it wd. redound much more to their own credit and reputation as good and faithful Overseers than runng. about.

I wish, however, that the Season may not be too far advanced for you to get a person to supply the place of Jones that will, in any wise, be competent to such a trust as must devolve on him, in the management of so important a Plantation.

[42] Henry Jones. He was overseer of the Dogue Run plantation.

I thought you had made it the particular duty of old Matt to attend to the Fences?

By Post of the 18th. Ulto., I sent you Tea and other Spoons, for the use of the house; and expected that *they,* the Tea, Coffee, Sugar and Wine would have been at Mount Vernon before the day on which you say Judge Cushing called at that place. . . .[43]

The Toll of my own Corn, which is ground there, amounts to nearly the whole of his [the miller's] credit: and of Wheat, rarely more than a bushel or two is brought to the credit of the Mill.

I have seen no account in any of the Reports, of the number of Bricks at Dogue-run. I desired in a letter sometime ago that these might be counted, and assorted; that if they fell short of what were wanting for the Barn intended to be built at that place, the earth might be taken from the foundation of it this fall, to ameliorate by the Spring.

That you may never forget directions that are given, it would be well to extract them from my letters, and place them in a pocket memorandum book, that they may be easily and frequently resorted to; without this, they may, when a letter is laid by go out of your mind, to my disappointment; and I would have nothing left undone which is required to be done, without being informed of it, and the reasons assigned; that I may judge of their weight. The Springs under the hill, which I requested should be opened, that I might, whilst they were at their *lowest,* see what water could be collected from the whole of them, cannot be done well when the weather is cold and freezing; nor will it ascertain the fact I wanted to know, after the Autumn and Winter Rains have filled the earth with water; for then, Springs may appear that would be entirely dry in

[43] The omitted part is a paragraph upon the price of wheat.

the Summer; and that is the Season I should want the Water. Speaking of this, I had rather the water from these Springs should be carried *round* any little risings wch. may be between the most westerly ones (which are worth opening) and that by the Dairy, than to have a deep ditch cut *through* them. In short, I want the water carried on its level to the front of the Mansion house, as it is done in Watered meadows; that I may, if I should hereafter want to water any, or all of that ground, or to make a pond on the level, directly in front, along the Visto that was opened in a line between the two doors, that so much of the work may be done to my hands. Before I left home, I desired you to mark out another Visto on the West front of the Mansion house, merely to see over what ground it would go, that I might thereby be enabled to decide, whether to open it or not; but as you have mentioned nothing of it in any of your letters, I suppose it is not yet done.

As I keep no copies of letters wch. I write to you and always write in great haste (one thing or another always is pressing upon me) it is more than probable I often repeat things over and over agn. to you; but this I have preferred doing to remaining in suspence of having done it at all; especially as you will consider it as a strong evidence that things *so repeated* are such as I am anxious about.

In one of my last letters, I think I desired (I know I intended to do it) that you would, after you had finally designated the Mansion house gang, keep them steadily at work at that place, suffering them on *no* occasion, (unless very immergent ones) to be sent to any of the Plantations to work; for besides loosing much time in marching and countermarching, it weakens the exertion, and destroys the ambition of the different Overseers to excel one another in the good condition of their respective

Plantations, when by extranious force they are relieved from difficulties which, more than probable, their own idleness has been the cause of. I can conceive nothing, except Ditching (which is a kind of trade) that the hands of every plantation are not competent to, and should be made to execute. Hedging, setting out cuttings for it, Planting, or sowing the Seeds according to the nature of them, &ca. &ca. as well as other things is to be done by them; under (where skill, and attention is necessary) the immediate eye of the Overseers. And as I have often, and often declared, this business of hedging must not be considered in the light of a secondary, or trifling, or an occasional thing; but on the contrary, as one of the first magnitude, and to be entered upon with as much serious intention to execute it well, as to prepare for planting Corn, or sowing Wheat, and the which I am more anxious to accomplish.

I now send you Mr. Lamberts Pamphlet, with the observations of Mr. Peters upon it, to whom it was lent, and who I think one of the most judicious farmers in this part of the Country. If there are any hints in the Pamphlet worth improving on, you will not, I am persuaded, suffer them to escape you.

Sinking the point of the beam below the parrallel line of the spit, or share, is a very material deviation from the common mode of setting a plough; and certainly ought to be tried by the rules and principle he has laid down. And this I conceive may be done with one of the bar shear plows which are now in use, as well as by a plow in all respects like the plate. I am etc.

PS. Perhaps you may not know, that if the Thursday Post (which leaves Alexanda. before day) is missed, no letter if sent to the office even half an hour afterwards, will reach this place before Tuesday afternoon. Tuesdays Post from that place

reaches this on Thursdays, Thursdays comes in on Saturdays, and Saturday's not till Tuesdays, on account of Sundays intervening. You will see by this the necessity of sending up your Reports in time always on Wednesdays. It is more convenient for me to receive them on Saturdays than any other day; because between that and the departure of the Post on Monday, which gets into Alexandria on Wednesday, I can write with less interruption than at any other time.

*To ARTHUR YOUNG

Philadelphia, December 2, 1792.

Sir: I must begin this letter with an apology: no apology ought to be so satisfactory as the truth; and the truth is, that not receiving the account of the taxes of a Virginia Estate for which I had written (before I left this City during the recess of Congress) as mentioned in my letter to you of the 18th. of June, the promise I then made of forwarding it to you in my next, had escaped me altogether, until I was reminded of it, lately, by a circumstance too trivial to mention.

A copy of the account is now annexed, the name of the Proprietor of the Estate is not inserted, but on the authenticity of it you may rely. That you may understand the principle on which the Land tax in Virginia is founded, it will be necessary to inform you, that by a law of that State, the Inhabitants of it are thrown into districts, say Parishes, in each of which, or for two, or more of them united, Commissioners are appointed to assess the value of each man's land that lies within it; on which a certain per centum is uniformly paid.

No Negros under twelve years of age are taxed, nor are any under Sixteen subjected to the payment of County, or Parish

levies. Horses, at present, are the only species of Stock, in that State, which pays a tax. Carriages were, when I left Virginia, and I believe still are, subject to a tax by the Wheel. It was then if I recollect rightly, about five dollars each wheel; but whether it is more or less now; or whether there be any at all, is more than I am able with certainty to inform you. With very great esteem and regard I am etc.

For public taxes, and for County and Parish levies.

Dr.			
In Truro Parish	1792		
Tax on 6320 Acs. of Land	for 1791	.....	£13.8.7
114 Negros	a 2/6	.....	14.5.0
87 Horses	a 6d.	.....	2.3.6
107 County and Parish levies a 29 lbs. Tobo. each	.. 3013.		
Fairfax Parish (adjoining)			
Tax on 3420 Acres of Land			6.6.3
24 Negros	a 2/6	.....	3.0.0
15 Horses	6d.	.....	7.6
23 County and Parish levies a 29 lbs. Tobo. each	.. 567.		
	3670	and	£39.10.10
3670 lbs. Tobo. at 15. pr. Ct.			27.10. 6
Total Dollars. a 6/			£67. 1. 4.

Note, There ought to have been in the above Account, a discrimination in the charge for County and Parish levies. The first is for building and repairing Court Houses, Goals, &ca., Criminal processes &ca. The latter is for the support of the Poor, and other Parochial Charges.[44]

[44] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

To JOHN HAMILTON MOORE[45]

Philadelphia, December 2, 1792.

Sir: I have the pleasure to receive a few days ago, the two elegant Charts of the Sea coast of North America, which you had the goodness to send, and the politeness to dedicate to me.

It is unnecessary for me to make any comment upon the utility of such works when executed by a person of ability. The discerning part of mankind will always venerate the promoters of science wheresoever they may be found and in this instance the many who may be benefited by your useful Charts will not forget to whom they owe that advantage. At present permit me to offer my best thanks and acknowledgments to you for this mark of attention, and to assure you that I shall always feel interested in the welfare of those who may promote the cause of science and humanity by laudable exertions. I am etc.[46]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, December 6, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: the several measures which have been pursued to induce the hostile Indian tribes North of the River Ohio to enter into a conferrence or treaty with the United States, at which all causes of difference might be fully understood, and justly and amicably arranged, have already been submitted to both houses of Congress.

The papers herewith sent[47] will inform you of the result.[46]

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[45] Of London.

[46] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[47] Copies of the papers sent are entered in the "Letter Book" immediately following this message.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, December 7, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I lay before you two letters with their enclosures, from the Governor of the South-Western Territory, and an extract of a letter to him from the department of War.

These, and a letter of the 9th. of October last, which has been already communicated to you, from the same department to the Governor, will shew in what manner the first section of the Act of the last Session, which provides for the calling out the Militia for the repelling of Indian invasions, has been executed. It remains to be considered by Congress, whether in the present situation of the United States, it be adviseable or not, to pursue any further, or other measures, than those which have been already adopted. The nature of the Subject does [not] of itself call for your immediate attention to it; and I must add, that upon the result of your deliberations the further conduct of the executive will on this occasion materially depend.[48]

To FRANCIS DEAKINS AND BENJAMIN W. JONES

Philadelphia, December 8, 1792.

Gentlemen: Since the Letter which we addressed to you, requesting your valuation of a certain tract of Land in Montgomery County, another arrangement has taken place with regard thereto. It is now agreed that the price of seven dollars per acre shall be fixed and the whole tract divided into two equal parts, with respect to quantity, quality and value. In giving effect to this agreement, we must still rely on your good offices to make

[48] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

the necessary division, which when certified to as will enable us to determine by Lot the possession. Your attention to this request, as early as your conveniency will permit, will greatly oblige, Gentlemen, Your etc.[49]

To CHARLES CARROLL, OF CARROLLTON

Philadelphia, December 9, 1792.

Dear Sir: In acknowledging the receipt of your Letter of the 1st. inst:[50] and expressing my sincere wishes that your personal happiness may be promoted by the election you have made to continue in your State Legislature, I cannot but regret the loss of your services to the United States in your Senatorial capacity. I am persuaded however, that your endeavours to serve your Country will be no less exercised in the station which you have chosen to hold than they have been heretofore in that which you have relinquished.

It gives me pleasure to find that Mr. Benjamin Harwood has accompanied his application for the appointment to the Loan office, with those respectable and strong recommendations which have been forwarded in his behalf, as I find a great relief in discharging this part of my duty, (which is not the least embarrassing) when the opinions of worthy and respectable characters unite in testifying to the merits, integrity and ability of the Candidate.[51]

Mrs. Washington unites in best wishes for your health and happiness with, Dear Sir, Your etc.[49]

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[49] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[50] Not now found in the *Washington Papers.*

[51] On December 9 Washington wrote to Gov. Thomas Sim Lee, thanking him for his recommendation of Benjamin Harwood. This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, December 9, 1792.

Mr. Whiting: Your letter of the 28th. of Novr., which ought to have been here the first day of this month, did not arrive until the 4th; that of the 5th. came yesterday, at the usual time.

I thought I had, in a former letter, desired that all the large Cedars in the Lucern lot might be left standing; as they could, at any time, be thinned after I had seen them, free from other things. This is the footing I would have them remain on, at present; the young one's, as has been mentioned to you are to be taken up so soon as they can be removed with a large block of frozen Earth; and planted from the stile downwards, thick, so as to make a formidable hedge. Let all the trees, large or small (unless very large indeed) that are taken out of either the lucern, or old clover lots, be grubbed up by the roots. It will, I am sensible, render this clearing more tedious; but it will be the means of saving much labour hereafter; besides giving a more agreeable appearance to the ground in the first instance. I will endeavor to procure seeds from the honey locust, and send you, but I question whether I shall get many, if any, as there are very few pods on the trees in the neighbourhood of this City, this year. I entirely approve, as I have mentioned to you in one or two letters lately, of establishing large Nurseries of every kind of plant that is fit for hedges; but then, I would do it (of the common plants) more for the purpose of repairing, than for raising hedges by transplanting the plants in the first instance, from these Nurseries. For, as you know, many thousands of the honey locust were transplanted from the Vineyard to the Ferry and French's, under the care of Mr. Bloxham; whom, one would have thought, would have known how to

manage them: but where are they now? Indeed this question might be asked with respect to the Honey locust seeds which were planted there, and elsewhere; and both be answered, justly perhaps, by saying that the ground was not properly prepared for either, nor the plants attended to after they were removed, or had come up from the Seeds. Indeed I am so anxious to get these hedges rared as soon as possible, that I would spare no expence of labour, or pains to facilitate the measure by trying both methods, with everything you can devise as fit for it.

By the time this letter will have got to your hands, I expect 655 lbs of Clover Seed at 1/5 pr lb., will be in Alexandria (from New York) for me; consigned to Mr. Porter; to whom, if you should not do it to the Captn., the freight (not more I suppose than 8/ or 10/p.) must be paid. The Seed, as it is furnished by a person who is careful in the choice, I hope will prove good: the distribution of it, together with that which you have, I shall leave to yourself; but request, if harrowed at all, it may be done with nothing heavier than a light bush, as I am well persuaded that the thinness of my clover proceeds, as much as any thing, from the Seeds being buried too deep.

Have you made any use of the Plough I sent from this place, and with three horses? I hope both the old Clover lot, and the Brick yard lot will be well prepared for the Crops, and Seeds which are to be put into them. And if you could get some of the true Plaster of Paris or Gypsum, and sow the Lawns on both sides of the Mansion house, it would be of Service; as they being to want dressing: about 5 or 6 bushels to the Acre is the usual allowance.

Put long litter against the Cellar Windows; Frank knows how, and should be made to do it, as well as the other things; otherwise he will be ruined by idleness. And can Lucy find sufficient employment in the kitchen? It was expected her leizure

hours, of which I conceive she must have very many from Cooking, would be employed in knitting, of which both Peter and Sarah do too little. I expected Sinah was one of those who would have been sent to one of the Plantations: whether she remains at the Mansion house, or not; it is my desire that when Kitty is unable to attend the Dairy alone, that Anna may be the assistant. The other, besides idling away half the day under that pretence, never failed, I am well convinced, to take a pretty ample toll of both Milk and butter.

I hope the Overseer you have got from Boggess's will answer your expectations; but I have no opinion of any recommendation from that person; and besides, a stayed, elderly man, for such an important plantation as Dogue run would have been to be preferred to a young one, although the latter should be a married man. but I am sensible any one would be better than Jones, and that the season was too far advanced to look for many to chuse from. When do you expect the successor of Garner? If he does not come over before Christmas, he may not be able to do it before Spring, on Account of Interruption by Ice.

As soon as your Corn is all measured, and the Grain all threshed, give me an Acct. of the *whole* Crop in one view; and what each field has produced of the several species; viz, Corn, Wheat, Buck wheat, Oats, Potatoes, &ca., and as your apprehensions of a short Crop of Corn seems to be great, I beg that every possible œconomy may be attended to in the use of it; and to prevent waste and embezzlement; as the same Spirits which attack my Wheat, Hogs, and Sheep, will not spare the Corn, if means can be found to get at it; And this is often given by the Overseers entrusting the Keys of the Corn houses to those who want grain for their work horses, &ca. Do not bestow *too* much Corn on your fatting Hogs, unless it can be applied to no other use; I mean that which is soft, for it will not keep long without

turning bitter, yellow, and becoming rotten: and if laid in bulk, will (I know from experience) be utterly ruined. For every purpose therefore to which soft Corn can be applied usefully, and œconomically, let it be and be the first consumed. I do not, by calling for this *general* return of *all* the Crops, mean that the individual ones, or parts of them, should go unreported as usual. My object is, that I may have the whole in one view, without resorting to the weekly ones. I do not know what quantity of Wheat is yet to go to the Mill, but wish it may not fall short of your expectation of 5000 bushels in the whole, for market. It appears to me that the Miller must have been very inattentive to his duty, to have manufactured only 102 Barrls of flour besides 15 barls. of midlings and 19 of Ship stuff out of 2387½ bushls. of Wheat which has been delivered into the mill. I wish he may not have forgot what is usual for all Millers to do and what I am sure he must have done himself, and that is, to grind of Nights, as well as days when the water, and seasons will admit. A little time more and the frosts will stop the mill; and in a little time after the frosts are over, the droughts will stop it, and my grain will remain unground. He has, it must be acknowledged, a fine time of it. Whether he works at night, or not, I hope particular charge will be given him respecting fire. The loss of the mill, and its contents, would be too heavy for me to support; and I find the accident of fires is already begun. The loss sustained by which, and how it happened at the Hound Kennels ought to have been more particularly detailed than by the simple mention of it in the report, as if it was a thing of course.

I did not expect that Buck Wheat could be had short of Loudoun. I wished to know whether it could be had from thence, and at what price, delivered in Alexandria; that I might be enabled to determine (if more than you have should be required)

whether it would be best to buy these, or send it from here. For this reason it is, I have asked once or twice what you have made; as soon as the quantity is ascertained, let me know it. What ground you propose to sow with it and how much seed (more than you have) is wanting.

If it is the Hessian fly that has injured your Wheat, the insect will be found between the blade and the stem, at the lower joint. The Clumps, as marked by the Gardener are very well designed but if there had been *more* trees in them, they wd. not have been the worse for it.

I presume Davis has painted the Windows and Cornice of the Green house and New Quarters white. I directed him so to do. Let we know what painting he has yet to do, and the quantity of paints on hand. What does the Gardeners wife in her report mean by Trowsers? She is not making them longer than common breeches I presume. This wd. be a great consumptn. of Cloth.

If you will send me the size, and length of the Well rope, I will endeavor to have a proper one made, and sent to you.

You ask directions from me, respecting your conduct in the building of my poor Nephew, Major Geo: A. Washington's House. From every Acct. we receive, his disorder is at a crisis, and must soon (if that is not the case already) change for the better, or terminate in his speedy dissolution: and as the latter is most likely to happen, I think you had better not (until further orders) procure any more scantling; especially such as must be cut to waste. It may be proper for Gunner to continue throwing up Brick earth; and for the Majors two men to be preparing plank for the floors; because these (especially the latter) cannot be lost. A very few weeks (before the end of the ensuing hollidays) will enable him, or his friends to decide more accurately on the measures necessary to be pursued. I am etc.

PS. In the Reports, let the quantity of Super fine flour be distinguished from the fine, that the quantity of every kind may be known, and seen at one view.

To JOHN SINGLETON COPLEY

Philadelphia, December 12, 1792.

Sir: Through the hands of the Vice president of the United States, Mr. Adams, I received a few days ago your acceptable present of the print representing the death of the Earl of Chatham. This work, highly valuable in itself, is rendered more estimable in my eye, when I remember that America gave birth to the celebrated artist who produced it.

For the honor you have done me in this mark of your attention, I pray you to accept my best thanks, and the assurance of my being, Sir, etc.[52]

PROCLAMATION

Philadelphia, December 12, 1792.

Whereas I have received authentic information, that certain lawless and wicked persons, of the western frontier in the State of Georgia, did lately invade, burn, and destroy a town belonging to the Cherokee nation, although in amity with the United States, and put to death several Indians of that nation; and whereas such outrageous conduct not only violates the rights of humanity, but also endangers the public peace, and it highly becomes the honor and good faith of the United States to pursue all legal means for the punishment of those atrocious offenders; I have, therefore, thought fit to issue this my proclamation, hereby exhorting all the citizens of the United States, and requiring all the officers thereof, according

[52] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

to their respective stations, to use their utmost endeavours to bring those offenders to justice. And I do moreover offer a reward of five hundred dollars for each and every of the above-named persons, who shall be so apprehended and brought to justice, and shall be proved to have assumed or exercised any command or authority among the perpetrators of the crimes aforesaid, at the time of committing the same.[53]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, December 16, 1792.

Mr. Whiting: Your letter of the 12th. with its enclosures came duly to hand, and under cover with this letter you will receive Invoice and Bill of lading for somethings which went from hence yesterday.

I thought it best to send you, ready prepared, the Plaster of Paris from hence. March or April will be time enough to spread it (at the rate of 5 or 6 bushls. to the Acre) on the Lawns before each door; if there be more than enough for this purpose spread the remainder on the Lucern, or new Clover lot (poorest parts of it) as far as it will go. It ought to be done when it is drizzling, at any rate when the atmosphere is moist and giving, and when there is very little wind; otherwise the fine particles of the Gypsom will evaporate, blow away, and be lost. All the honey locust Seeds I could get before the Vessel Sailed, are sent; if more are to be had I will send them. The fruit trees wch. accompany them may be planted where the Gardener shall think it best they shd. stand; and desire him to be careful of the Seeds you got from Mr. Hunter; taking care to preserve the names of them, that the plants may be thereby known.

[53] The text is from Sparks.

If (or whenever) you can obtain a good price for the Middlings or Ship-stuff in Alexandria, I would have you sell them to raise Cash for such purposes as indispensably call for it; but I earnestly exhort you to buy nothing you can either make within yourselves, or can do well without. The practice of running to Stores &ca., for everything that is wanting, or thought to be wanting, is the most ruinous custom that can be adopted and has proved the destruction of many a man before he was aware of the pernicious consequences. There is no Proverb in the whole catalogue of them more true, than that a penny saved, is a penny got. I well know that many things must be bought, such for instance as you have enumerated in your letter; but I know also, that, expedients may be hit upon, and things (though perhaps not quite as handsome) done within ourselves, that would ease the expences of any Estate very considerably. Before the Navigation is closed it might be prudent to make this Sale; or to have the Ship-stuff and Midlings stored in Alexandria in readiness for it; otherwise you will be unable to do it, or have it to Waggon, which will be not only a drawback from the price, but may be attended with much inconvenience.

I observed to you in my last, that I thought the Miller [54] was very negligent, and inattentive to his duty in not having more wheat manufactured than what appeared by the Report of the preceeding week; and I now desire you will let him know that I am by no means well pleased at the delay. I fear he makes so large a portion of flour superfine, as to endanger, or at least to impoverish the fine, this will not be good policy for either kind: and I perceive he makes the Wheat weigh only 58 lbs. per Bushel. I wish you would now and then see a load tried. 58 is less than I have heard of any Wheats weighing this year.

[54] Joseph Davenport.

Tell Davenport it is my desire that he would immediately try with 100 bushels of wheat (carefully measured, and as it is received at the mill) what quantity of superfine, fine, midlings, shipstuff and Bran, will come from it. This 100 bushels of wheat (after it is measured, and weighed) is to pass, as usual, through the Mill Screen and Fan. My object you will readily perceive is to compare the prices of the wheat before, and after it is manufactured, together, that I may be enabled to form a precise judgmt. of the value of each: He must therefore be very careful that no mistake is made, and the experiment such as he can be responsible for. It is for this reason I have directed the wheat to be measured and weighed before it goes through the Mill operations for cleaning. A similar experiment to this was made last year, but I want another, and to have it done without delay, and with great exactness.

If Isaac[55] had his deserts, he wd. receive a severe punishment for the House, Tools, and seasoned stuff which has been burned by his carelessness. He must have left the fire in a very unjustifiable situation, or have been a fine time absent from it, for such an accident to have happened before it was too late to have extinguished it. I wish you to inform him, that I sustain injury enough by their idleness; they need not add to it by their carelessness. The present work-shop (Barn) will do very well; at least 'till there is more leizure for altering that, or erecting another.

I am sorry to find your Crop of Corn is likely to fall so short of expectation: I hope, however, that great care will be taken of what is made; and that every advantageous use will be made of the Soft Corn. It will not, with all the care that can be taken of it, keep long, and if you lay it in heaps it will inevitably spoil, and be fit for no use in a very short time.

[55] One of the Negro carpenters.

I am not less concerned to find that I am, forever, sustaining loss in my Stock of Sheep (particularly). I not only approve of your killing those Dogs which have been the occasion of the late loss, and of thinning the Plantations of others, but give it as a positive order, that after saying what dog, or dogs shall remain, if any negro presumes under any pretence whatsoever, to preserve, or bring one into the family, that he shall be severely punished, and the dog hanged. I was obliged to adopt this practice whilst I resided at home, and from the same motives, that is, for the preservation of my Sheep and Hogs; but I observed when I was at home last that a new set of dogs was rearing up, and I intended to have spoke about them, but one thing or another always prevented it. It is not for any good purpose Negros raise, or keep dogs; but to aid them in their night robberies; for it is astonishing to see the command under which their dogs are. I would no more allow the Overseers than I would the Negros, to keep Dogs. One, or at most two on a Plantation is enough. The pretences for keeping more will be various, and urgent, but I will not allow more than the above notwithstanding.

I hope your New Overseer will turn out well; his age (although he now has, or soon may get a wife) is much against him for a large concern, in my estimation; but the Season made it almost Hobson's choice, him or none. I have engaged an elderly man [56] who may probably be with you on Sunday next to look after the home house gang. He is an Irishman, and not long from that Country. According to his own, and the Accounts given of him by others he is well practiced in both farming and grazing. He is old enough to be steady, and to have had much experience in both these branches; though old, and clumsy withall, he promises that activity shall not be wanting,

[56] James Butler.

nor obedience to any directions you may give him. I have agreed to allow him Seventy dollars for the ensuing year, and have told him that further encouragement, either in an augmentation of wages, or removal to a better place, will depend altogether upon his own conduct and good behaviour. If he is such a man as he is represented, he may be useful to me; having it is said a perfect knowledge in Horses, and Stock of all kinds. I should have prefered, if the Major had not occupied the room over the Kitchen as a Store, to have put his bed in that; but this being the case, he must go into the house opposite to the Store; as the Servants Hall must be kept for that purpose unappropriated to any other uses.

I have informed Mr. Butler (that is his name) that sobriety, industry and honesty, are such indispensable qualifications in my eyes, that he will remain but a short time with me, if he is found deficient of either. And I request you, not only in his case, but with all the other Overseers likewise, to pass over no faults without noticing and admonishing them against the commission of the like or similar ones; for in this, as in everything else, it is easier to prevent evils than to apply remedies after they have happened. One fault overlooked begets another, that a third, and so on; whereas a check in the first instance might prevent a repetition, or at any rate cause circumspection.

I thought I had desired you, before I left home, to make some enquiry respecting the person who lives in my house in Alexandria, and to Rent it upon the best terms you could to him or any other; but as you have never mentioned the matter in any of your letters, I presume I intended to do so, but did not, and therefore now request it may be done.

I would have you open the second Visto 20 feet wide, as far as Muddy hole branch, and let me know whether the hill on

the other side of it is high or low; and whether it will require much work to open it to the full width 'till you pass it; for as to opening it beyond the hill I conceive it to be as unnecessary, as it was in the first Visto after you descend into the flat beyond it.

If proper care and attention has been paid to Cilla's child, it is all that humanity requires, whatever may be the consequence; these I would have bestowed on all. What is Boatswains complaint? I find he is still in the house; as Charles also is. Let me know the quantity of Water you are likely to draw together, from the different Springs below the Lucern lot, and inform me what numbers of the fields will be united at the Ferry and French's plantations, and what will be the numbers of them when this is done: without this knowledge I shall be at a loss when you are speaking of the different fields how to distinguish them.

If Mr. Hartshorn does not take the Stud horse, nor you should not have disposed of him to any other, deliver him to Mr. Robert Lewis, or his order if he should send for him. I remain etc.

To ALEXANDER ROBERTSON[57]

Philadelphia, December 16, 1792.

Sir: Your letter to the President of the United States dated the 4 of November, did not get to his hands 'till a few days ago; and in reply thereto the President commands me to inform you, that it is not at present in his power to give a decided answer to the request which you make for him to employ your brother in the management of one of his farms. Even if he was in immediate want of such a person as you describe your brother to be, it would be necessary to have certain points

[57] Of Morristown, N. J.

settled previous to his giving him encouragement to come over, such as, complete evidence of his being well qualified to manage the affairs of a farm in this Country, which is different from the management of a farm in England, and especially where the labour is performed by blacks: and a knowledge of the terms upon which your brother would be willing to engage in this business. But as the President has not immediate occasion for the services of such a person he can only observe, that the usual mode of engaging overseers of farms and plantations in Virginia where his Estate lays, is to give them a share of the Crop as a compensation for their services, for instance, if there should be on a plantation *ten* working hands, the crop is divided into eleven shares, one of which belongs to the Overseer: if a greater or less number of hands is employed, the Overseer's share is in proportion thereto. But the President having deviated from the common mode of cultivation practiced in that part of the Country, has been under the necessity of paying his overseers annual wages instead of giving them a share of the Crop; and the wages given to those whom he employs, as well as by other gentlemen in his vicinity who give annual wages instead of a share to the Overseer, vary from 80 to 130 Dollars pr. year, according to the extent of the farm to be superintended, and the skill of the person in managing the business of it, to these wages are added, a comfortable dwelling House on the farm, and a stipulated quantity of provisions, adequate to the support of the Overseer. In mentioning these terms, it must be observed that the President speaks only of his own Estate, and those in it's neighbourhood where he has had an opportunity of knowing the terms upon which Overseers are engaged on them. What may be given in other parts of the Country he cannot tell; and as the skill which you say your brother possesses in gardening and surveying, would not be

likely to be called into exercise in over looking such farms as the President's; they could not be taken into the account in making a compensation for his services as an Overseer; but if they were found useful to a person who might employ him, in conjunction with his duties as Overseer or manager, an extra compensation wou'd undoubtedly be made for them. I am etc.[58]

*To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

(Private)

Philadelphia, December 18, 1792.

Gentlemen: Your letter to the Secretary of State, dated if I recollect rightly, the 5th. instant; intimating among other things, that you had failed in an attempt which had been made to import workmen from Scotland equally with that for obtaining them from Holland, fills me with *real* concern: for I am very apprehensive if your next campaign in the Federal City is not marked with vigor, it will cast such a cloud over this business, and will so arm the enemies of the measure, as to enable them to give it (if not its death blow) a wound from which it will not easily recover. No means therefore, in my opinion, should be left unessayed to facilitate the operations of next year. Every thing, in a manner depends upon the celerity with which the public buildings are then carried on. Sale of Lots, private buildings, good or evil report, all, all will be regulated thereby; nothing therefore short of the absolute want of money ought to retard the work.

The more I consider the subject, the more I am convinced of the expediency of importing a number of workmen from

[58] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Europe to be employed in the Federal City. The measure has not only œconomy to recommend it, but is important by placing the quantity of labour which may be performed by such persons upon a certainty for the term for which they shall be engaged.

Upon more minute enquiry, I am informed that neither the Merchants *here* nor in *Holland* will undertake to procure Redemptioners from Germany; and that the most eligable and certain mode of obtaining from thence such Mechanics and labourers as may be thought advisable to procure from that quarter, will be to engage some person, a German, to go from hence into Germany where he is acquainted, to procure the requisite number of men and bring them to the Shipping port, which is generally Amsterdam or Rotterdam, and that any Merchant here (who is engaged in Shipping trading to Holland) will engage to have a Vessel ready to take them on board at a time which shall be fixed, and bring them to any Port of the United States that may be specified, and receive the amount of their passage on delivery of them. The person who may be employed to go over to Germany will expect, it is said, an advance of one guinea per head for the number wanted, to enable him to pay the expences of such as may not be able to bear their own from the place where he procures them to the Shipping Port, and this advance is accounted for and taken into consideration at the time of paying for their passage when they arrive here. The customary passage, it seems, is eleven guineas per head, and the compensation of the person employed to procure them is either one guinea a head for as many as he may deliver, part of which is paid by those who employ him to go over, and part by the merchant who furnishes the Vessel to bring them, as he receives a benefit by the freight, or, the person employed keeps an account of his necessary expences while on this business, which

is paid by his employers, and a consideration for his services is made him according to a previous agreement.

The term of time for which these people are bound to serve, depends much, it is added, upon their age or ability as labourers, or their skill as mechanics; the former generally serve three or four years; and the latter (if good workmen at their trade) two. But in this case, that it would be better for the person employed to get them, to have them indented at the time of engaging them, specifying the number of years they are to serve to commence at the time of their landing in the U. S.; and that he ought to be furnished with the necessary forms of Indentures and particular instructions on this head before he goes over. And if mechanics of a particular description are most essential it would be well, in order to secure their Services beyond the term for which they might be engaged for their passages, to stipulate at the time of engaging them, that they should serve one, two or three years over and above that time at £ per year. And as it may happen, that some good mechanics may be willing to come over who are able to pay their own passage, might it not be well to empower the person sent to engage them a per year for (say) four years? In all cases to provide, that if those who engage as mechanics should be found incompetent to the business for which they engage, from a want of skill or knowledge in it, and shall appear to have used imposition in engaging themselves as such, they shall be obliged to serve the time of common labourers.

Should you be of opinion that it would be expedient to import a number of workmen, and the mode here pointed out, meet your ideas, no time should be lost in carrying it into effect; and if you have not contemplated a proper character for this business and will inform me thereof I will endeavour to obtain one in this City to go over to Germany, and a Merchant

also to furnish the Vessel at the time and place which shall be agreed on between them.

It is not, however, my wish that the idea of importing workmen should be confined solely to Germany. I think it ought to be extended to other places, particularly, Scotland from whence many good and useful mechanics may undoubtedly to be had. I have been more particular in respect to Germany because they may probably be obtained from thence on better terms than from other quarters, and they are known to be a steady, laborious people. It will be necessary, if you should determine upon an importation from Germany, to state the number of mechanics you would wish in each trade, to be brought from thence, as well as the number of labourers.

Mr. George Walker who is in this City, informs me, that he shall Sail for Scotland about the first of January, and says if he could render any service in this business he would willingly do it. To get workmen, is part of the business which carries him over but how far after the part he has acted with respect to yourselves you may chuse to confide in him, is fitter for you than it is for me to decide; especially as I know no more of his private character and circumstances than I do of the terms on which he would undertake to render the Service.

A thought has also occurred to me, and though crude and almost in embrio, I will nevertheless mention it. It is, if the character of Mr. Hallet (from the knowledge you have acquired of it) is such as to have impressed you with confidence in his abilities and activity, whether in the unsettled state of things in France he might not be employed *this* winter in engaging from that Country and bringing over in the Spring such workmen, and on such terms as might be agreed upon.

Boston too has been mentioned as a place from whence many, and good workmen might be had but the reasons which have

been assigned for the failure here are not within my recollection if I ever heard them.

Upon the whole, it will readily be perceived in what a serious light I consider delay, in the progress of the public buildings; and how anxious I am to have them pushed forward. In a word the next is the year that will give the tone to the City, if marked with energy, Individuals will be inspirited, the Sales will be enhanced, confidence diffused, and emulation created; without it, I should not be surprized to find the lots unsaleable, and every thing at a stand. With great and sincere regard and esteem. I am.

To ROBERT LEWIS

Philadelphia, December 23, 1792.

Dear Sir: I have been informed within these few days, that Major Harrison[59] of Loudoun County, who owns a piece of Land adjoining mine in Fairfax, is disposed to sell it; and to convert the money to more useful purposes.

I am led from the rascally set of Tenants who occupy that land, and by no other consideration whatsoever, to become the purchaser of it, that I may be relieved by that means from the villainies which the livers thereon are frequently committing on

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By the President's command, Tobias Lear wrote to the Secretary of State, December 20, to "inform the President where he can obtain a copy of the New Impression of the Federal City" [Ellicott's map] and "wishes to know if it would not be advisable, in the Secretary's Opinion, to have a number of the plans of the City sent to our Ministers abroad, in order that the object may become more particularly know [*sic*] abroad than is at present." This letter is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On December 22 Washington nominated to the Senate the appointment of Gouverneur Morris as United States Minister to France, Thomas Pinckney to Great Britain, and William Short to the Netherlands. This nominating message is entered in the "Letter Book" and a brief of the debate that ensued in the Senate thereon, December 29 and 30, is in Washington's handwriting in the *Washington Papers* under the heading "S—te, on the agency it ought to have in judging of the expediency of sendg. M—rs abroad."

[59] William B. Harrison.

my property; in the practice of which their art and cunning is too great for detection. I have said my only motive to this purchase is to get rid of this pest of society, and in saying so I have declared the honest truth; for the land would not answer for a farm, being without timber, and too poor for cultivation; nor would it be profitable in Tenements, because men who intended a livelihood by honest industry, would give little or no rent for it; and my inducement to buy is to get rid of those of a contrary description.

Major Harrison must be sensible that no one can be better acquainted with the land than I am; it would be unnecessary therefore (if he has any inclination to sell it) to ask a price which it will not bear; but if he is disposed to take a reasonable price, and will act the part of a frank and candid man in fixing it, I would not have you higgle (which I dislike) in making a bargain. I will pay ready money if we can agree; but it must be on two conditions, first, that the title is good, and secondly, that it is not under the incumbrance (any part of it) of a lease; for that would defeat the sole end I should propose by the purchase; namely, to purge the neighborhood of these impure characters.

Under this view of my ideas, and the knowledge you have of my sentiments respecting the Land, any bargain you shall make in my behalf with Major Harrison, shall be binding on me.

Your Aunt unites with me in best regards for yourself and Mrs. Lewis, and I am &c.[60]

*To ROBERT LEWIS

Philadelphia, December 23, 1792.

Dear Sir: I wish you would, as soon as the enclosed letter gets to your hands, call upon Major Harrison and endeavor to

[60] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

purchase from him the land therein mentioned, and for the reason therein assigned.

If you can get it for a Sum not exceeding forty shillings (virga. curry.) per Acre (wch. is *a great deal more* than it is worth) close the bargain with him at once, provided, as is mentioned in the letter, the title is good, and it is not under the incumbrance of a lease, for in either of these cases I would not be concerned with the land unless I could obtain it on very low terms.

You might, after a short introduction of the subject to Major Harrison, shew him the enclosed letter, by way of bringing matters to a speedy explanation; but if you find his ideas of the value exceed 40/ pr. acre know what is the lowest terms he would sell on; the quantity of land he holds, and all the circumstances attending it, and give me notice thereof as early as you can, engaging him to wait a certain time for you to make the communication of them to me, and to receive my answer. Draw from *him* his lowest terms before *you* make any disclosure of what you would give, on my behalf.

When you was at Mount Vernon you expressed a wish to be possessed of the stud horse that was there. If he is not sold (for it was so intended when I left home) I make you a present of him. I am etc.[61]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, December 23, 1792.

Mr. Whiting: Your letter of the 19th. instant, enclosing the Weekly reports, has been duly received.

By Mr. James Butler who left this City on friday last, I wrote you a few lines enclosing the agreement I had entered into with

[61] From a photostat of the original in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City.

him. I request that the Smiths Book may be put into his hands, and a regular account taken every night of what they have done in the day; and that he will see they do as much as they ought. Let an Account be raised in that Book or some other, for each Plantation, and everything done for it as regularly charged to it, as if it had been done for one of the neighbours who was to pay therefor. A practice of this sort answers too [*sic*] purposes; first, to see that the Smiths do their duty; and secondly, as a check upon the Plantations, who ought to account for what is received from thence, as well as for everything else, that is furnished them in the course of the year, as soon as it shall have expired.

It is my desire also that Mr. Butler will pay some attention to the conduct of the Gardener and the hands who are at work with him; so far as to see that they are not idle; for, though I will not charge them with idleness, I cannot forbear saying, and I wish you to tell the Gardener so (provided you shall think there is cause for it) that the matters entrusted to him appear to me to progress amazingly slow. I had no conception that there were grubs enough in the Vineyard enclosure to have employed them as many days as are reported; and sure I am that levelling the Bank ought to have taken a very little time. If it is found that the hands with the Gardener are not usefully (I mean industriously) employed, I shall with draw them; as I did not give them to him for *parade,* to be *idle,* or to keep him in *idleness.*

Mr. Butler says he has been much accustomed to Hedging. I have told him how extremely anxious I am on this head; and I request you will aid him all in your power to rear them speedily. He is very fond of the French furze, and has no doubt of succeeding with the thorn, if, therefore, the berries of these are

still on the trees, let them be gathered; and with every thing else that can be thought of, tried without more loss of time than is required for the proper season.

Anthony's Toe should be examined and if it requires it something should be done to it, otherwise, as usual, it will serve him as a pretence to be in the house half the Winter. I have no objection to Sinahs remaining as part of the Mansion House gang; but I have strong ones for the reasons mentioned in a late letter, to her being employed in, or about the Dairy. The reason which you assign however for retaining her there, has no weight with me; for it is not my intention, hence forward, that *any* of the House gang shall be employed in Fencing at the Plantations, there is no more propriety in employing them in the Post and Rail fences at Dogue run or the Ferry, than there would be in any other sort of Fencing: Let every Plantation do their own work, they are sufficiently strong for it, and have no right to look for more aid than is to be derived from the Ditchers in that article. It would seem to me as if the progress in getting and securing the Corn at the River Plantation was extremely slow. One would not judge from this circumstance that the Crop of the Grain would prove so very short.

If you could, by means of Mr. Hartshorn, or any of the Merchants in Alexandria who have dealings in Loudoun, procure the deficient quantity of Buck Wheat at 3/. or even 3/6 delivered at Mount Vernon, I would have you do it. Otherwise you must apply what you have to the best purposes your own judgment shall direct, for I could send none from hence at the highest of those prices.

It certainly wd. be to my advantage to buy Majr. Harrisons Land adjoining mine, if it could be had on reasonable terms; but for *no other reason* than that which you have mentioned; but from the appearance of the new buildings which I saw on the

land when I was last at home, I suspect that reason will not apply, that is, from this circumstance I apprehend he has given leases on the land, in wch. case I should be not relieved from my present inconvenience by the purchase; as the riddance of bad neighbours would be the only object I could have in view. If you can, by indirect enquiries (so conducted as not to alarm the Pools) ascertain this fact and let me know the result, it would enable me to judge better of this matter.

The Peach stones which were sent to you are from Georgia, desire the Gardener to pay proper attention to them.

I do not regard the temporary fall in the prices of Wheat and flour, as there is no radical cause for it, but, on the other hand the calls which occasioned the rise are still existing the prices, I will engage, will be up again; and more than probable be higher than even before March. All the flour therefore that you can get safely stored (before the Navigation is closed) in Alexandria, will be ready for the first exports in the Spring.

It is observed, by the Weekly reports, that the Sewers make only Six shirts a week, and the last week Caroline (without being sick) made only five; Mrs. Washington says their usual task was to make nine with Shoulder straps, and good sewing: tell them therefore from me, that what *has* been done, *shall* be done by fair or foul means; and they had better make choice of the first, for their own reputation, and for the sake of peace and quietness. otherwise they will be sent to the several Plantations, and be placed as common laborers under the Overseers thereat. Their work ought to be well examined, or it will be most shamefully executed, whether little or much of it be done. And it is said, the same attention ought to be given to Peter (and I suppose to Sarah likewise,) or the Stockings will be knit too small for those for whom they are intended; such being the idleness, and deceit of those people. I am etc.

To THOMAS NEWTON, JUNIOR

Philadelphia, December 25, 1792.

Sir: I am sorry it is not in my power to give you such precise information relative to the subject of your Letter to me of the 9 instant as may be satisfactory to yourself, or serviceable to the object mentioned in it.

I do not recollect ever to have seen the Will of the Revd. Mr. Green,[62] so that I can say nothing from that; but I remember it was impressed on my mind that the woman Sarah, of whom you speak, was to have had her freedom, but whether it was to have taken place on the death of Mr. Green, or on the death of his wife, or from what other period, I am not able to say. I recollect, however, that she lived with Mrs. Green while she was a widow, and after her marriage to Doctr. Savage, but whether as a slave, or upon other conditions is more than I know. The Revd. Mr. Fairfax and myself were appointed Trustees on behalf of Mrs. Savage for certain purposes, but they had no relation to this woman. If a referrence to Mr. Green's will be necessary on this subject, I presume it may be found among the records of Fairfax County. I am etc.[63]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, December 30, 1792.

Mr. Whiting: I have duly received your letters of the 21st. and 26th. instt., and am a little surprized to find by the last that Mr. James Butler had not reached Mount Vernon before the date of it. He left this City on the 21st. and according to the usual

[62] Charles Green.
[63] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

course, and time required for the Stages to run, he ought to have been in Alexandria on Monday last, the 24th. of this month.

Notwithstanding the reduced number of hands at Mansion house, if Mr. Butler answers the description which is given of him, he may be useful to me on many accounts; and may ease you a good deal of the particular attention which otherwise, you would find it necessary to give to the various concerns about it. Amongst which, none I think call louder for it than the Smiths;[64] who, from a variety of instances wch. fell within my own observation whilst I was at home, I take to be two very idle fellows. A daily account (which ought regularly to be) taken of their work, would, alone, go a great way towards checking their idleness; but besides this, being always about the House (except at Haymaking and Harvest) and not far from them, he might have a pretty constant eye both to them, and to the people who are at work with the Gardener; some of whom I know to be as lazy and deceitful as any in the world (Sam particularly). My horses too (in the management of which he professes to have skill) might derive much benefit from a careful attention to them; not only to those which work, but to the young ones, and to the breeding mares: for I have long suspected that Peter, under pretence of riding about the Plantations to look after the Mares, Mules, &ca:, is in pursuit of other objects; either of traffic or amusement, more advancive of his own pleasures than my benefit. It is not, otherwise to be conceived, that with the number of Mares I have, five and twenty of which were bought for the express purpose of breeding, though now considerably reduced from that purpose, alone; should produce not more than Six or eights Colts a year. This I say will hardly be believed by any person who has ever been

[64] Blacksmiths.

in a similar practice. The evil stands much in need of a remedy, and I request, if Mr. Butler should ever reach you, that he may be told: it is my desire he would endeavour to apply one. I moreover conceive (being an experimental farmer) that he will be better able to carry your directions into effect, (especially in Hay-making, Hedging and the like, in his own way) than one of the common Overseers of the Country: And in addition to these, as he writes a tolerable good hand and has a tolerable knowledge of Accts., you might derive aid from him in that way; when I was able to look after my own business it was a custom to keep as regular accounts with each of my Plantations as if the Articles delivered from the Store, from the Smiths Shop, done by the Carpenters, &ca., &ca., had gone to, or had been done for, Mr. Peak or any other from whom the value was to be received. This under your general Superintendence (with out aid) I know would not be in your power to render without neglecting other parts of your duty of more consequence; and therefore I never required it in the extent above mentioned; nor expected it. But if Butler comes to you, and merits the character given of him, an essay towards it may be made. My great fear respecting him, is, that he will be found difficient in point of activity. But as I have, in a former letter desired that admonition, or something else, may be administered to the first, and to every neglect, it is needless to repeat it in this place. He is to have his Victuals cooked for him; and as he is a man who (from the accounts given of him) has seen better days than his present appearance indicates, I should suppose, if you find his deportment and behaviour decent and proper, there can be no objection to his eating with you: but in this, do what is most agreeable to your own inclination, as it is not my intention to impose any one upon you, in this way contrary thereto.

All such work as you have enumerated, I think is the duty of every Overseer to render; and if he is a man of an industrious turn he will do it, whether he is compelled by articles, or not; On the other hand, if he is of an indolent cast, (such as Jones was,) all the articles in the world would not enforce the measure longer than he, himself, was under the observation of an Overlooker: and probably, to avoid working himself, (the Negros knowing it to be his duty to do so, by agreement) he would suffer them to be idle, to bribe them against a discovery of his own idleness. For these reasons I have always had doubts (where there is a large gang of hands to overlook) of the propriety of attempting to *compell* by Articles an Overseer to do more *work* than his own inclination would naturally prompt him to do, voluntarily. Indeed where there are a number of hands, his time, probably, wd. be better employed in seeing them well engaged than in working himself, especially if all are not within his full view at the time.

I have not a proper recollection of the ground between the Spring house and the Oozey ground about the place where the hound kennel stood, or, you still mistake my design, and I am led to the latter opinion, by your having begun the drain by, or from the Spring house. My intention was to have begun the drain from the *lowest* Spring at the foot of the Bank most westerly; that is, nearest the Wharf, and to have carried the water along that, *on its level* to the front of the Mansion house, as hath been described in former letters; and to let the higher ones into that drain, as may be seen by the rough sketch enclosed. I always expected, and you will find it so mentioned in one of my letters, that the Water so united, would be to be conveyed across the sunken spot (East of, and) by the Spring before you could get it to the avenue in front of the house; but I had no idea of there being other hollows west of the spring

house as difficult as you represent them to be; for as to cutting through banks which are liable to Cave in, I had no idea. After this explanation of my meaning if the difficulties which you represent should still oppose themselves, I wd. have the work suspended until I come home; which I presume to hope, will be in the Spring.

Ascertain as near as you can how much red led (ground in Oil) it will take to complete the painting the roofs of the Old Spinning house, Salt House, Smoke house, Wash house and Coach house (adjoining) together with the four Garden houses (if not already done), also white led to finish what was begun, and not compleated; and Oil for the whole; informing me thereof; that I may be enabled to decide whether I shall send them or not. Let me know also whether the Roof of the Piaza leaks since the New shingling has been put on.

You speak of the quantity of Lime which it has taken to repair the Overseers house in the Neck. It is occasioned in a great measure by the profuse use of it by davis[65] and the *unnecessary* strength which he gives to the mortar; in which he ought to be corrected. Of Stone lime, and the lime made from Oyster shells, the quantity differs, but the proportions of each are well ascertained for different kinds of work; for here again, Mortar is made stronger, or weaker, according to the Nature of it. Rules for all these might easily be obtained, and observed. Another bad practice which he is in ought to be corrected; and that is, laying his Mortar too thick in the joints. This hurts the look of a building, rather diminishes, than adds to the strength of it, and consumes much lime.

If, as you suppose is the case, the Miller spends more time than he ought to do in his dwelling house, it is justice due to me, to inform *him* of it; and to add, that if the practice is con-

[65] Thomas Davis, a mason or bricklayer.

tinued your duty will require that I should be informed of it. The slow progress made by him in manufacturing my wheat in such an open and mild fall and Winter as we have had, is, if there was Water, the strongest evidence that can be given of his indolence, and the bad use thatt he has made of so favorable a Season.

This mild and open weather has been a great relief to the Corn and fodder, advantage I hope has been taken of it to Husband both. But the last Report speaks of an amazing consumption (in a short time) of soft Corn at the River Plantation. I wish to hear that all your Overseers are fixed, and well in their Giers.

I did not expect that the Plow which went from this place would be employed otherwise than in breaking up ground in the fall of the year; I am affraid this work is backward, if but *now* you are beginning to plow for the 1st. time the old Clover lot at the Mansion house; when the Brick yard and Lucern lots are also to plow, and when the former of them ought to be sown in the early part of the Spring; as well for the advantage of the Clover, as for that of the Oats with which it is Sown.

Speaking of Sowing Clover, let me request that such a machine as is described in Mr. Bordleys pamphlet, be prepared, and the clover Seed sown therewith. My Clover Seed has never been regularly, or well sown, notwithstanding it has been lavished upon the ground; some parts of which having none, and other parts surcharged. Less, if distributed over the ground, will do; in some of my letters I have given the quantities bestowed on an Acre in the vicinity of this City where it is as thick as the best Farmer would require it to be.

Has Doll at the Ferry mixed her work with that of the outhands? If not what does she employ herself in? I have no report on this head. If she knits or Sows, her work ought to be

noticed in that line, and care taken that she renders a sufficiency of it. Let the stud horse be delivered to Mr. Robt. Lewis's Order, as Mr. Hartshorn did not comply with his agreement. I am etc.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Monday, [December 31, 1792].[66]

Dear Sir: If you have not closed your letter to Mr. Pinckney I wish you would desire him to be very attentive to the embarkation of Troops for America,[67] especially Quebec, and to give the earliest advice of the measure, and of the numbers. Yours etc.[68]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Private)

December 31, 1792.

Dear Sir: I do not recollect perfectly what your sentiments were respecting the application of Mr. De la Forest;[69] and being to give an answer to the Secretary of the Treasury on this occasion I should be glad to receive them previously thereto.[70] The difficulty of the case you well know arises from the unauthorised request, and the hazard of advancing monies without it. I am etc.[68]

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[66] Inadvertently dated "31st. Jan."

[67] From Great Britain.

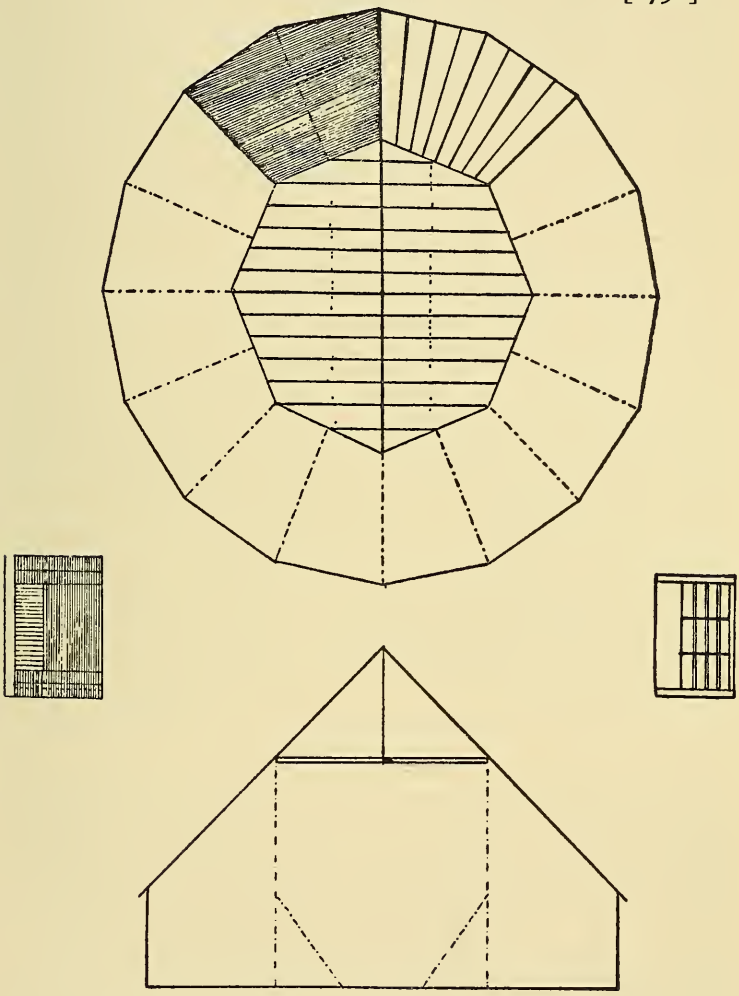
[68] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[69] Monsieur de la Forest had written (December 27) "that the French Consuls here have a right to receive their salaries at Paris; that under present circumstances they cannot dispose of their bills, and desiring that our Government will take them as a remittance in part of the monies we have to pay to France. The trouble was caused by the depreciation of the assignats in which the consuls were paid. Jefferson thought the risk, if any, is certainly very small, and such as it would be expedient in us to encounter in order to oblige these Gentlemen. I think it of real value to produce favorable dispositions in the agents of foreign nations here. Cordiality among nations depends very much on the representations of their agents mutually; and cordiality once established, is of immence value, even counted in money, from the favors it produces in commerce, and the good understanding it preserves in matters merely political."

[70] Jefferson's report (December 31) is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

*BUILDING INSTRUCTIONS FOR A BARN

[1792][71]



[71] The date is arbitrarily assigned. (See Washington's letter to Anthony Whiting, Jan. 6, 1793, *post.*)

The Plan of the building, as exhibited on the other Side; The manner in which it is connected with the B: Yard; the possition of the outer door, wch. is to be 8 ft. wide, into the upper floor from the B: Yard and the entrance from thence into the Octogan or inner building between the braces after passing over the open or treading floor. The situation of the door into the floor below to be A, and in short every other thing necessary for information is so expressly and clearly explained in these details wch. are given that it is scarcely necessary to give any further direction for the execution. But that there may be no mistake on the part of Thos. Green in laying the work off, nor no unnecessary labour in digging the foundation I shall drop a few hints for his governmt. and desire he will attend to them, viz, first to lay of the Barn yard as described wch. if I mistake not was originally intended to be 100 feet sqr. But, if I am wrong in this let it run as far back from the So. Wt. and So. Et. Corners of the Corn houses as it is from one of the said Corners to the other and ranging with the outer sides of both of them. Then half way and along the line oo in the Plat, fix the angle, and center of the Barn door as at C and 2; next from 2 and the Center of the Barn Yard Gate at P.[72] and range in a line with these two objects, fix a stake 26 feet from the Angle at C and 2 for the Center of the Octagon, and of Course of the Barn. From this Center form a Circle by a line or Rod as more certain 26 feet long, which will give the Diameter of the Barn, viz, 52 feet from out to out. Then let the foundation be Sunk by this circular line until the highest part of the ground above, and within the circle is brought to the level of the lowest part of it below and also within it. By this means there will be no unnecessary digging, and when the wall comes to be built which it must be of 16 equal sides 10 ft. 3 Inches each at the outher angle or as

[72] It will be noted that Washington neglected to letter this diagram.

near this as may [*sic*] to be tried [*sic*] when it is levelled, there need be but one face of it worked by plumb and line, and that the inner one, until it rises within two courses of Bricks of the Cill of the Window frame as all up to that will be raised and sloped off with the earth that is taken out and must hereafter be paved; or turfed so as that the Water may run off freely, and not by settling against the Wall keep the lower floor damp. The Inner Circle, or Octagon must be struck from the same Center by a line, or rod 14. feet in length. and will have eight Pillars to form eight equal sides, one of which is to be parrallel with the line oo. It will readily be perceived that the Door from the B. Yard must enter at the Angle C–2 in order that it may open opposite to the interval between the braces otherwise the entrance into the Octagon would have a very awkward look nor will the door at this place look badly, but have advantages from the cover tht. will be over it. All the bricks for this building must be hard and good it would be well therefore to have those that are on the spot assorted and counted in time that if there be not a sufficiency of them the best clay from under the Barn may be laid aside for making the difficiency early in the Spring. 30,820 I calculate a sufft. number but this supposes all to be good, perhaps 35, or even 40,000 wd. not be too many to provide.

References[73]

A Two doors by wch. the Cattle may be let into the back yard.

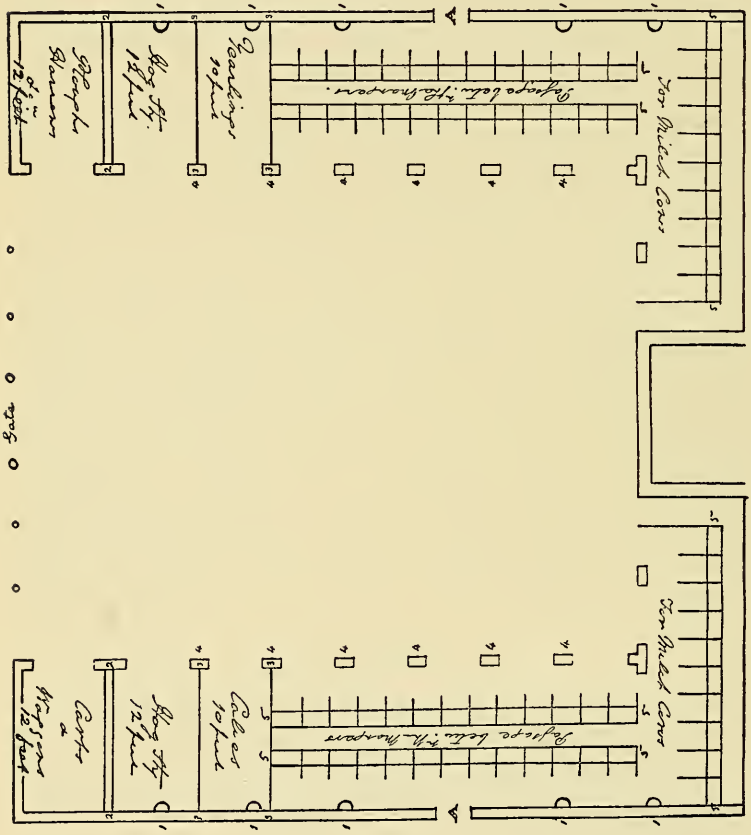
1. Arches, through which the dung is to be discharged into the backyd.; the lower part of wch. should be even with the surface, and high enough (especially those in the Hog styes) to let a large Hog pass into the back yd. as occasion may require.

In the roof of the two wings B B on the outsides, there are to be 3 dormant windows or doors, so disposed from the No Et or No Wt Corners of the sheds of the Barn to the extremity of the Wings of

[73] These "References" are written on the left of the plan for a barnyard.

the side buildings at the same as to equi distant, and most convent. for stowing Hay, Tobo. &ca. and at the same time so arranged as to look well.

2. Brick Walls the same as the other side
3. Post and Rails



4. May either be Brick Pillars (as described in the Plan and as has been begun), or a 9 Inch wall raised 8 Inches above the surface, with a Cill thereon, 7 by 9. with good White or Box oak Posts (as shall be judged best for the support of the Roof) may be adopted.

References—Observations &ca.[74]

The lower floors of the Barn, that is the graineries are to be laid with 1¼ inch Plank tunge and groved.

The floors above these may be laid with inch plank

The Mangers marked with the figures 5, may be made of inch pine plank and be 2 feet wide 9 inches deep in the front, and 9 Inches deep behind which will be sufficient for both Corn and Hay

Sleepers for the *whole* of the lower floors to rest on 9 Inch brick Wall

*88 fourteen feet long—9 by 3 Inchs. for the whole of the lower floor

*2000 feet of 1½ Inch plank

16	Cills for the Windows 9 ft. long	8 by 4
16	top ps. for ditto 9 " long	6 by 3
	Bars for do	2 by 2
1	Middle Post—supporter 9	12 by 12

Upper Floor

*88	Joists—14 ft. long	12 by 4
8	Cills for the inter. or octagon—14 long	12 by 12
16	Do. for the extr. at [*sic*] shed—12	12 by 12
16	Posts 8 ft. long	8 by 6
32	Studs 8 f Do	4–3
16	Plates 12. long	4–8
	*Treadg. floor 420 ps. Wh. Oak running progressively from 12 to 20 ft. long	2½–2½
*600	2½ Inch Plk. middle floor	

Body of the House.

8	Posts 20 ft. long	12 by 12 Inchs.
30	Bras. 12 long	8 by 6
8	Plates 14	8 by 6
1	Girder 28	15 by 12
1	cross ps. for the King Post—28 long	12 by 8
2	14 feet long to cross do	12 by 8
1	King Post—12 long below shins [*sic*]	6 by 6

[74] These "Reference—Observations &ca." are written on the right of the plan for a barnyard.

*86 Rafters 20 long 6 by 3 at one end and 4 by three
at the other end .....
Laths for 3 feet Shingles.
7000 three ft. shingles includg. what are The Scantling marked thus (*) to be bought
The rest to be got by my own People.

*BUILDING INSTRUCTIONS FOR SHEDS

Fig. A

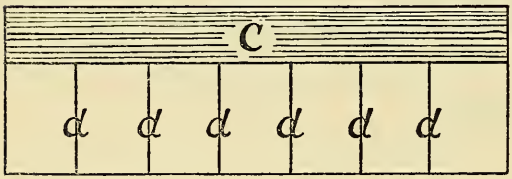


Fig. B

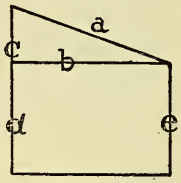


Fig: A. Is the inner fronts, next the yard, the dark part marked (C) is to be planked. the Posts d, in front, are to be in the ground; and of locust if to be had, if not, then to be of the most durable kind of Oak. They are to support the front part of the shed, and to be so far a part from each other as that every post will serve for two stalls, when they are erected; corrispondent posts, with intermediate studs, will support the back part of the shed. In the middle of the sheds, back part, doors must be, thro' which the dung and litter is to be carried to the Stercorary, back of them.

Fig B, Gives an end view (next the Barn) of the Sheds. These ends are to be boarded up from the brick foundation (a) shews the rafters. (b) the joists that go from the back plate to the front posts. (c) the part that is to be boarded in front as described by (c) in figure A, and (d) shews the Posts as described by the letters (d) in the said figure A, the back part of the sheds as at (e) except at the doors, are to be boarded up close.

The length and breadth of the sheds will be known by the brick foundations of them, which must be repaired; the height must be such as to give sufficient head room for the horses and for Racks, if racks should be preferred.

*To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Philadelphia, January 1, 1793.

Dear Sir: After reading the enclosed letter return it to me. My sentiments of the *general* principle you are acquainted with. With the one handed, under this cover, do as shall seem best to you in the case before us, and let me know the result; or, if you chuse it, I am ready to confer further with you on the subject. I am always Your etc.[75]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

United States, January 4, 1793.

By the President's command T. Lear has the honor to return to the Secretary of War Genl. Wayne's letter and it's enclosures, which have been submitted to the President; and to inform the Secretary that the President thinks it would be best to dispatch a special Messenger to bring Cornplanter to this place, as it is highly important to know with as much accuracy as possible the views of the hostile Indians.

The president thinks it would be proper to lay a copy of the Speech of Cornplanter, and the New Arrow, before Congress,

[75] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On January 1 Lear wrote to George Meade, of Philadelphia, requesting him to get from Cork, Ireland, 30 or 40 pounds of seed of the French furze. "The person who procures it must be careful not to get the seed of the *Irish* furze, which is vastly inferior to the French." Lear's letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

Also, on some unrecorded date in January, 1793, Washington replied to an address of the Grand Lodge of Free Masons of Massachusetts, of Dec. 27, 1792. Both the address and the answer are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

and to introduce it by observing that as that business is now before them it is thought proper to communicate to them every thing that can throw light on the subject.[76]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, January 6, 1793.

Mr. Whiting: Your letter of the 2d. instant with its enclosures came to hand yesterday, and I am glad to find by it that Mr. James Butler had arrived safe for I began to apprehend that he might have fallen sick on the Road, as he had not reached Mount Vernon at the date of your former letter of the 26th. Ulto.

If this person performs all the duties I have suggested to you as proper for him to be employed in, with intelligence and zeal, I shall excuse him readily from Manual labour. and as you will soon discover of what turn of mind he is, whether inclined to industry, or to indulgence; whether his knowledge of Farming is real or pretended only (from the clearness and precision with which he may discourse with you on topics relating to it); whether his dispositions are good or bad; and whether he has a head capable of arrangements or not, I should be glad to be informed, when you shall have formed a judgment of them yourself. His character as handed to me, stands exceedingly fair on the score of Sobriety and honesty, by those with whom he has lived in this Country; and the enclosed certificate (which deposit along with his agreement) testifies to his conduct in Ireland. Mr. Keating is a Clergyman of respectable character, and Major Butler[77] (who appears on the Back of the certificate) is one of the Senators in Congress. My apprehensions

[76] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear. S. P. U. S." in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[77] Pierce Butler.

of James Butlers fitness, proceed from a doubt that he may want activity; and my only reason for so doubting, is founded on his clumsy appearance, and age: and again, that he will be at a loss in the management of Negroes, as their idleness and deceit, if he is not sufficiently cautioned against them, will most assuredly impose upon him. I have told him that he must stir early and late, as I expect my people will work from day-breaking until it is dusk in the evening; and, that the only way to keep them at work without severity, or wrangling, is always to be with them.

You will see by the enclosed to Thomas Green (which Seal before you send it to him) on what footing I have placed his continuance, or discharge; and I do hereby authorize you to act accordingly. I need not observe to you, however, that it is necessary before the latter takes place to consider how the business can be carried on without him, or some other White-man; and where, and on what terms, such an one can be had; for I am sure, none of my Negro Carpenters are adequate to the framing, and executing such a Barn as I am about to build at D: Run.

Speaking of this Barn, Let we know when it is probable it will be set about. Whether the Scantling (Oak excepted) and Plank, is actually engaged. And when to be expected? Never having been fully possessed of the poor Major's views (if he ever contemplated his disorder as fatal) in this building, I am absolutely at a loss what to say to you respecting the materials for it. My *own judgment* is decidedly against expending his money for this purpose in the hopeless state of recovery in which he is represented by his Physicians, and all who have seen him, to be. On the other hand, *as he seems* so sollicitous to have it carried on, he must either think differently of his disorder from others, or his object is unknown to me. Under this

view of the Subject my advice to you is, to purchase such parts of the Scantling only as are most essential and which will be first wanting by the workman in carrying on the building, and this, without cutting it to waste; but by no means to hurry the work until matters are brought more to a crisis and certainty. I could not, before he left Mount Vernon, tell him that his case was (by every one) thought desperate; but advised him (except what could be done by his own people) to let the matter rest till the Spring, and then he should have the aid of all my people. As well Carpenters as Bricklayers, to hasten it on.

If there was an absolute necessity for refraining from Fishing with my own People, or Postponing my Hedging operations another year, I should not hesitate a moment in giving up the first; for I would make every thing yield to the latter; but I do not see the thing in this light. I expect the Hedging and every thing belonging thereto (except ditching where necessary) whether done this year, next year, or at any time thereafter, will be performed at each Plantation by the hands belonging to it. And that the proper time for this work is now, and in all weather, when the earth can be moved, between this and the budding of Spring. In a ride I took yesterday, I saw thousands of the cuttings of Willow setting out; and upon enquiry was told it was the best season to do it: if it suits one sort of cuttings, more than probable it will suit another; I therefore request this work may not be delayed a moment. It is not like fencing, grubbing, &ca. that may be executed at all Seasons of the year. For this reason I should have derived more satisfaction from reading the reports, to have found that the hands of the Ferry &ca., and the hands of Muddy hole had been employed in preparing the ground along their cross fences for the reception of Cuttings, and Seeds (if you have any to put in)

than in grubbing places which could be done as well hereafter the Crops which are to follow, or even to have omitted them if they could not as now. If under these ideas you can carry on Fishing (with my own people) and Hedging both, it will be most agreeable to me; but if one only can be done, I had rather Rent the Landing for what it will fetch, and stick to Hedging. In the first case, that is doing both; It is very probable Mr. James Butler will be a proper person to superintend the Fishery, as I presume *all* his hands must go to that business; with aid from other quarters.

I should be glad to know how far you have advanced in your clearing at the Mansion house? The point between the Road leading to the Wharf, and Hell-hole, ought to be well grubbed, cleaned, smoothed, and well sprinkled with Timothy. I mean all that part which lyes without the fence of the old clover lot, quite up to the Vineyard Inclosure: the same also on the other side of the Road, between that and the cross fence by the Vault and old hound kennel.

If the Wool is all spun up, in what manner do you mean to employ the Spinners? They must not be idle; nor ought the Sewers to have been so when they were out of thread: If they can find no other work, let them join the out door hands. Myrtilla and Delia had better, I conceive, do this altogether, as their will be enough without them for all the purposes of Spinning and Sewing.

More than an hundred bushels of Buck wheat will, I should suppose, be nearly or quite adequate to all your wants. If it is sown in good season, and the ground is well prepared, three pecks to the acre will be enough, of Seed that is fresh and good.

If you think the Wheat in No. 2, at Muddy hole, will not be too much injured by turning the young Mules on it, I do not object to the measure; and with respect to the young Jack, it is

my earnest wish that he may be fed high, Winter and Summer, to see to what size he can be made to grow.

As I have promised the stud horse to Mr. Robt. Lewis, I would not have him disposed of otherwise. I shall write to him by this opportunity to send for the horse.

I suppose Mr. Hooe receives my flour upon the same terms he Stores other goods; No other I have a right to expect; but I conceive that he ought to insure it against embezzlement, or waste, occasioned by improper usage in tossing it about. However, if you Store up on the same terms others do, I can expect no more.

When you are well informed of the conditions on which Majr. Harrison lets his Land to Pool &ca. I shall be better able to decide upon the propriety of becoming the purchaser of it. My opinion of its being under lease was occasioned by the New building I discovered on it, but this was no more than conjectural evidence of the fact. I remain etc. [N.Y.P.L]

PASSPORT TO MONSIEUR BLANCHARD[78]

Philadelphia, January 9, 1793.

To all to whom these presents shall come

The bearer hereof, Mr. Blanchard, a citizen of France, proposing to ascend in a balloon from the city of Philadelphia at 10 A. M. this day to pass in such direction and to descend in such place as circumstances may render most convenient.[79]

These are there to recommend to all citizens of the United States and others that in his passage, descent, return, or journeying elsewhere, they oppose no hindrance or molestation to

[78] Jean Pierre Blanchard, a French aeronaut.

[79] Accounts of the ascension are in Dunlap's *American Daily Advertiser*, Jan. 10, 1793, and in the *Philadelphia General Advertiser* of January 10. Blanchard's balloon traveled about 15 miles and descended near Woodbury, Gloucester County, N. J., the day of the ascension.

the said Mr. Blanchard: and that on the contrary, they receive and aid him with that humanity and good will which may render honor to their country and justice to an individual so distinguished by his efforts to establish and advance his art in order to make it useful to mankind in general.[80]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, January 13, 1793.

Mr. Whiting: Your letter of the 9th. instant with the several reports therein, came duly to hand; and to such parts as require it, I shall reply. I never had it in contemplation to withdraw the hands from the River, or any other Plantation to aid at the Mansion house, if their work should be required at home: therefore I find no difficulty in releasing the River force from this Service, if there is *really* work enough to employ them at home; which is indeed very probable, as they have spent all the fall, and half the Winter in getting in their Corn: a thing hardly ever heard of before in the worst of weather, much less in such as we have had, and which perhaps never was seen before. If there was any way of making such a rascal as Garner[81] pay for such conduct, no punishment would be too great for him. I suppose he never turned out of morning's until the Sun had

[80] From the Philadelphia *Evening Bulletin,* Sept. 12, 1931.

On January 11 Lear wrote to the Secretary of War: "By the President's command T. Lear has the honor to return to the Secretary of War the Letters from Maj Genl. Wayne which have been submitted to the President. And to transmit to the Secretary a letter and its enclosures which the President has recd. from Mr. Hawkins. The President requests that the Secretary will take the subject of this letter and papers into consideration. And see the President upon them tomorrow morning at nine O'clock, and that the Secretary will then bring with him the Book, or documents of Instructions which have been given to the Commissioners who have been appointed to treat with the Indians. The President expects at that time the heads of the other Departments to be with him also.

"The President Observes that it will not be necessary to have any of the Instructions &ca. copied for the purpose of bringing here."

This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

[81] Overseer of the River Farm.

warmed the Earth; and if *he* did not, the *Negros* would not: and if you do not watch the motions of such people (now and then) in the mornings, it will, more than probably be the case with the rest who are on standing wages; and who feel no interest in the Crop, whether it be great or small: For in this case, principle,[82] and a regard for reputation, are the only motives to stimulate industry and, unfortunately, too few of that class of (common) Overseers, are overburthened with either of these.

I am perfectly sensible of the scarcity of Timber at the River Plantn.; and the distance it is to draw at some others; and this, principally (but aided by many others) is the reason why for many years back, I have been labouring but in vain to substitute live, instead of dead fences; and which I will no longer, under any pretences whatsoever, delay doing. My frequent and long absences from home prevented my attending to the business personally; and no recommendation, nor indeed orders, could draw the attention of those to whom I entrusted my affairs, in the manner it ought, for the seasons were either suffered to pass away before the measure was thought of by them, or, the work executed in such a manner as to produce no good effect. Now, as I mean to make hedging a *business,* and a *primary one,* and when I add that, I cannot be more disappointed or disobliged by anything, than in neglecting the Season, and the means to accomplish the measure; I shall hope to be relieved in a few years from the great consumption of timber which such a quantity of Fencing as I have, will occasion; and the consequent transportation of the Rails to such a variety of cross fences as there are, but which, in the first instances at least, might be made of any sort, or kind of hedge that would turn horses, Cattle and Sheep; Hogs not being admitted.

[82] On the left hand margin of the first page Washington has entered "N B. The enclosed Seeds are from the Maliga Grape desire the Gardener to Plant, and give a proper attention to them."

It would be folly to place cuttings of either Willow or Lombardy Poplar in grounds they will not grow; And you and the Gardener, on the spot, must be the best judge of these; substitute therefore what you may think best in their places. I look upon either and both of these trees to be excellent for rearing a hedge quick; but conceive they ought to be fronted. or backed, with some other plant that is more stubborn and durable too, if they can be had; in order to make a lasting, and formidable hedge.

You propose a change in the course of the Fence from the back of the young clover lot to the river; but I do not understand on what line, or how you propose to run it. My idea, was not to alter the fence of the Brick yard lot, unless to draw it as much up the hill (just above Green's house) as it could be done to be out of the view of the House; and then, from the No. East Corner thereof, to run such a fence as you seem to have in contemplation (below the summit of the hill also, so as to be hid from view) until it reached the hollow by Boatswains house thence to the outer fence in the nearest direction. I meant moreover, to have run another fence from the No. West Corner of the New Clover lot, by the road at the turn and gully, until it shd. strike the outer fence near the gate by Richds. house, which would have thrown all the intermediate ground into one Inclosure to be divided hereafter at pleasure, into smaller lots, if necessary. This would leave all the Hill sides, the broken grounds, and Swamps below, which contain most grass, for a common pasture: and the way to get in to it might be by a continuation of the lane by the New quarter, and back of the Smiths shop to the head of the hollow by the Wild Cherry tree; and wch. would be the road also to the old fish house landing without passing through Gates or Bars or lot itself. The reason why I had not mentioned this matter to you

before, was, that I conceived work enough had been cut out already, without enumerating more; but as you seem to look forward, on acct. of hedging &ca. I mention these ideas without being tenacious of them. My object in clearing the grounds *out side* of the pasture, along the Road from the Gum Spring, was that you might see the Mansion house as soon as you should enter the little old field beyond it.

I have no objection to your pursuing your own judgment as to the time fittest for plowing the Brick yard Inclosure provided the grain and grass-seeds are sown therein as early as possible. I wish both were *now* in the ground; and hope every exertion possible has been made this mild and open weather to forward your plowing generally for it is highly probable that February and March may be unfit for this business; in which case, and not embracing the fine weather you have had, the business, and your crops consequently, will be exceedingly backward.

Although you may sow the grass-seeds at the Mansion house yourself it is my wish nevertheless that a machine (described by Mr. Bordley) may be made to sow it at the other places; for in unskilful hands the seed is wasted, and the grounds not productive, on account of the irregularity in the sowing it. It is my wish that the Buckwheat, sowed for manure, could be got into the ground as early as possible after the frosts are over, that, when the first growth therefrom has ripened seed enough to stock the ground a second time, it may be again plowed in, which will afford a second dressing before it is seeded with grain.

Mr. Butler's ideas may require correction, and to be assimilated a little more to the nature of our climate and Soil; but I by no means disapprove of the idea of trying the efficacy of the mud which may be extracted from Hell hole, if he can contrive

to get it up. I do not mean on a large scale. This would be expensive, but if the attempt was made on a few square rods of the poorest ground in the adjacent lot, with different quantities on each, the experiment might, and unquestionably would, ascertain a fact which may be of great importance to know; and as experiments of this sort can be made at a small expence it is wonderful and inexcusable they are not oftener attempted. And though it may be imprudent to risk a whole field of Turnips for the purpose of folding upon (until the land can be brought into better order) yet it would certainly be right to practice this upon a small scale at first; and advance by degrees, and according to the utility and advantages which are found to flow from it. Mr. Young (of Suffolk in England) who, unquestionably, understands the *principles* of farming as well as any man in England, and who has had as much practical knowledge, has given it as his *decided* opinion that the Stock of every farm ought to be supported by the fallows. By fallows (for he reprobates the idea of naked Fallows) he means Turnips, Cabbage, Beans Clover, and such like as are best adapted to the Soil and which are part of his rotation Crops. His great Desiderata is, that large Crops cannot be raised without large stocks of Cattle and Sheep. No large Stocks of these without the Fallows above mentioned; which are the *best,* if not the *only* proper preparation for Crops of grain. To get fully into a practice of this sort, in this Country, must be more than the work of a year, two, or three, but if it is never begun it can never be executed. Turnips (where the land is fit for it) folded on, and Clover, seems to be his plan.

As there appears to be more difficulty in carrying the Water to the Visto in front of the Mansion house than I had conceived the work may be suspended until my arrival. But what is the reason that Davenport will not make the experiment I

directed with 100 bushls. of Wheat? If it is delayed, the object I had in view cannot be answered by it, which was, to ascertain whether it would be best, and most for my interest, to sell my Wheat in the grain, or after it was manufactured. He certainly must be a very indolent man! There is no doubt in my mind, but that both Wheat and flour will be as high before the middle of March as it has been yet, or more so; a continuation of the cause (and in a degree better known than it was) of the rise in the prices of these articles will not loose its effect, but as the sales of mine will depend in some measure upon the Cash in Alexandria, it is my desire that you will keep me pretty regularly informed of the Alexandria prices, that I may govern myself accordingly.

I will, by the first Vessel to Alexandria send oil and paint agreeably to your Memorandum. The Pillars of the Piaza and other parts of the Mansion house must be examined and repaired before they are painted, after which I will have both sides of it and ends painted and sanded. as well as the Pillers. I requested the Major to have a sufficient quantity of white, and fine sand brought from below for this purpose (if what I had was insufficient) but whether it ever was done or not I am unable to say. for in too many cases it has happened that, the directions given in letters (when not immediately executed) are laid by and never thought of more, unless I have renewed them. When you receive the paints I shall send from hence, the Cornice of the Salt and smoke houses may be painted white in the manner you have suggested.

By the last weeks report you have been grubbing in the old meadow at D. Run. Which meadow is it that you call the old? If it be that by the Overseers house, I hope all that was left unfinished at the former clearing of it will be now compleated, except such trees as ought to be left for shade and ornament

near the house; and all the trash entirely removed, from it. By the same weeks report, from Muddy hole, a blank for the qty. of Buckwheat is left. It is better not to touch a subject than to leave it unfinished.

Let Mr. Crow [83] know, that I view with a very evil eye the frequent reports made by him of Sheep dying. When they are destroyed by Dogs it is more to be regretted than avoided perhaps, but frequent *natural deaths* is a very strong evidence to my mind of the want of care, or something worse, as the sheep are culled every year, and the old ones drawn out. I wish you well, and am etc.

PS. Jany. 14th. 1793.

I beg that the Mill may not be idle for want of Wheat. The sooner indeed the residue of the Crop can be delivered there the better, and less waste will be sustained. Let me know how many Stacks remain to be got out at the River Plantatn. What you suppose they will yield, and how much Wheat you conceive is in the Barn at the Ferry and French's.

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, January 20, 1793.

Mr. Whiting: Your letter dated the 16th. instant, enclosing the Reports of the preceeding week, came duly to hand. and the parts requiring it, will be duly noticed.

Enclosed you have a list of Paints Oil &ca. which left this yesterday morning; and may, possibly, be at Alexandria (if the Vessel is not detained at Norfolk where she is to call) nearly as soon as this letter may reach Mount Vernon.

It might be well, if there is nothing to prevent it that I am unacquainted with, for Davis to finish the Painting mentioned

[83] Hiland Crow. He was overseer at Ferry and French's farms.

in your last, without delay; that this work may be accomplished before the Season shall arrive for making, or laying Bricks. The Paint by advice of the maker of it, is put into small kegs, that it may not waste by drying; and it is proper whenever one of them is opened, to stick to that work until the contents therein are all used, for the same reason.

You will see by the enclosed Invoice, that two ropes for the Well by the Quarter are sent, that is, one of hair, and the other of Herba: use which ever is best, and take good care of the other and of the old one also.

I hope every attention has, and will be paid to the Meat, otherwise the warm weather may taint and spoil it.

How does the Wheat stand this open weather, and look? As an interesting period for it is coming on, give me notice from time to time of the changes it may undergo: and embrace the best season, and weather, for sowing clover on such of the Wheat fields as are intended to receive it. Let it be done by the Machine mentioned in Mr. Bordleys Pamphlet, and at the rate mentioned in some of my letters to you, formerly.

I should not incline to hire white Carpenters; and I know not where those of another description are to be had: and if to be had, numbers would afford little aid if they are not well attended to; and where a person is to be found that would do this, is yet more difficult than the other. If the number I have would work as men ought to do, the buildings you describe as wanting, would require no great time to erect. I wish Richards house was removed to Muddy hole, for I think the one in which Davy now lives is dangerous. This I expected would have been amongst the first things done after I left home. I hope too, that the gates will be put up as soon as they can be with convenience; and furnished with such latches as are to the white, and other gates on the Road; and not such as is on

that which opens into the fields at the Ferry; which was a plague to all that entered it. My object in keeping the Carpenters as much together as the nature of the work would admit, was, that they might be under Greens own eyes, and thereby kept to their duty: but if he skulks from work himself, and is not attentive to theirs, they may as well be any where else as with him.

In my last, if I recollect rightly, or in some late letter to you, I gave it as my opinion that materials for the Majors building should be laid in as fast as the work could be carried on, without waste; and if it was not so understood, by you, I now repeat it. By this mode of proceeding, the house will meet no delay; nor will materials be provided unnecessarily. In the meanwhile, his situation and views will more and more unfold themselves.

I have Six quarts of Honey locust Seeds which, by mistake, did not get on board Captn. Ellwood in time; but they shall be sent by the next Vessel, or by Post in season for spring sowing: (the ground in the meanwhile to be well prepared for them). If there is more of the French Furze seeds to be had in Alexandria, and you have any good reason to suppose it not bad, I would advise you to provide more of it, notwithstanding I have just sent to Ireland by the advice of Mr. James Butler, for 30 or 40 lbs. of it. And if, upon enquiry to any of the Merchants in Alexandria, who may have shipping of their own, coming from England, you could import at a proper Season, the English thorn, I would have you engage ten or 12,000 of them. Do not, however, let this prevent Mr. Butler from making experiments with the Berries of the White thorn in this Country; nor suspend any other projects (for hedging) which you may have in contemplation: The manner of doing these things I leave to you. To get them done is the interesting part

to me. A slight Walling, where there are no Hogs, would, I should conceive, answer all the purposes of preservation; and if done with Split Stakes, can not last less than 4 or 5 years. Dunging, if you have means to do it, will certainly facilitate the growth of the plants; and I should recommend it accordingly. I very much question whether the Seeds of the Honey locust which were put into the ground last Spring and are not yet up, will ever vegitate (because the ground was not properly prepared for them) but if hope remains, I am willing to trust to the issue of it; especially as I have no prospect of obtaining a large supply of them.

Enclosed you have some Seeds of the (blew) Maliga grape; which give to the Gardener. Those sent last were of the white kind, in other respects the same.

If you can do without the fence that runs from No. 1 (Dogue run) to the Mill race I would not have it moved; because I prefer grass lots of 20 or 25 Acres to those of double the size notwithstanding the expence of fencing, and this for a variety of reasons wch. will readily occur to you; whether for Mowing or graising, or both alternately. And would have the Ditches which divide them, planted with Willow (either the Weeping, yellow, or even these common in the Swamps) for hedges; as hath been frequently mentioned; the ground being first well hoed and cleansed for the reception of them; otherwise the labour and the plants (as was the case last year) will be thrown away: for plants will come to nothing if choaked, and stifled with grass and weeds.

I am persuaded (as I observed to you in my last) that fencing at the River Plantation will be an expensive, and labourious job: and if it shall be thought safe to entrust No. 4 to the security of water fences I shall not object to one of the Carpenters assisting Mr. Stuart in building a Batteau for the erection of them: but I have great doubts on this hd.; and if Hogs cannot

be kept from them I am sure they will not give security to the Crop that may be in it. The Shores are very shoal. The fences must be very extensive to reach beyond low water mark after a day or two of No. West Winds, and if they do this, the high tides occasioned by Easterly Winds, are apt to overset them; and if this does not happen, Ice in the Winter scarcely fail to carry them off. However after giving this information I leave you to your own judgment.

The Cedars between No. 3 and 4 might be plashed, laying them as the ditch runs, and Cedar berries previously sown between the present growing trees, to fill the Spaces. A hedge of this sort, against every thing but Hogs, is as formidable, and perhaps as lasting a fence as can be made.

If you can manufacture such Sein twine as will compleatly answer the purpose, it will, assuredly, be a very desirable thing; for there is, certainly, no proverb more true "than that a penny saved is a penny got." And as it holds good in one thing as well as another, I wish you would keep it always in view. Do what, upon fair calculation, shall appear best with the Shorts at the Mill, and I shall be satisfied with your decision on the occasion.

Should there come a freezing spell, employ much force, and all your exertion to stock the Ice-house, if but partially. I am very well pleased at your furnishing Doctor Stuart with a plow for the use of the Estate on York River; as it is my wish to aid it in every shape I can.

Your treatment of Charlotte was very proper, and if She, or any other of the Servants will not do their duty by fair means, or are impertinent, correction (as the only alternative) must be administered.

Although I desired that the Ditch which was intended to conduct the Water from the Springs under the Hill to the Visto in front of the Mansion house might be suspended until

I should be able to view the ground; I would, nevertheless, wish to have the Springs opened; first to see what quantity of water they will afford; and secondly, that it may be let off in its natural course, by small drains, so as to lay the boggy or Spungy ground which absorbs the Water, dry and smooth. It being my wish that all the ground, quite from the River bank up to that which has been sown with Lucern, should be laid down with grass seeds of some kind or other, most congenial to the nature of the Soil, and the shade under which much of it, I presume, must grow. The same I would have done all round, from this Inclosure, by the Wharf to the line of locusts which run down through the Vineyard, as soon as the ground is in order for it. Nay, quite up to the other fence when grubbed and in readiness, notwithstanding it is a common at present, and should remain so. I remain, etc.

To URIAH FORREST

Philadelphia, January 20, 1793.

Sir: Previous to the receipt of your Letter of the 10th inst. enclosing a copy of Mr. Ellicott's answer to the attempt wh. you made to dissuade him from quitting the business in wh. he is engaged, I had learnt, with concern, that there had been some altercation between him and the Commissioners of the federal District, relative to the time and money which had been expended in running and marking the lines within the City: and indeed, as I passed through George Town last fall, I understood that some of the proprietors expressed a dissatisfaction at the tardiness with which that business appeared to be executing. I was then in hopes, that there might be no substantial cause for complaint on that score, but that the dissatisfaction arose more from the impatience of those persons who were interested in

the completion of the business, than from any improper delay or tardiness on the part of Mr. Ellicott; and I flattered myself that I should never hear more of the subject. But sorry I am to find that I have been disappointed in this hope, and that the matter has occasioned a serious difference between the Commissioners and Mr. Ellicott.

I perfectly agree with you, Sir, "that the City has infinitely more to dread from the discord and want of union among it's friends, than from all the power of it's enemies" and am therefore persuaded, that every considerate person, who is interested in it's establishment, will use his influence to heal differences and promote harmony among those engaged in the execution of the work.

The dispute between Mr. Ellicott and the Commissioners is, I believe, but little known at present out of the circle of George Town, and I am therefore convinced, that if Mr. Ellicott's sole object is to make its merits known, as far as a knowledge of its existence extends, he could do it as well, or better, by other means than he could by a News paper publication, which would only tend to promote personal disgust and hurt the progress of the City. And if Mr. E. is serious in the declaration of his attachment to that spot, as the permanent seat of Government, he cannot but give up a determination which will manifestly be productive of much detriment to the establishment. With great esteem, I am etc.

*To GOVERNOR HENRY LEE

Philadelphia, January 20, 1793.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your letter of the 6th. instant, congratulatory on my re-election to the Chair of Government. A mind must be insensible indeed, not to be gratefully

impressed by so distinguished, and honorable a testimony of public approbation and confidence: and, as I suffered my name to be contemplated on this occasion, it is more than probable that I should, for a moment, have experienced chagreen if my re-election had not been by a pretty respectable vote.[84] But to say I feel pleasure from the prospect of *commencing* another tour of duty, would be a departure from truth; for however it might savour of affectation in the opinion of the world (who by the bye can only guess at my sentimts. as it never has been troubled with them) my particular, and confidential friends well know, that it was after a long and painful conflict in my own breast, that I was withheld (by considerations which are not necessary to mention) from requesting, *in time,* that no vote might be thrown away upon me; it being my fixed determination to return to the walks of private life, at the end of my term.

I am sorry to be informed by your letter, that death has snatched from us my old acquaintance and friend Colo. Bassett. The manner of it, adds to the regret. We shall all follow, some sooner and some later; and, from accounts, my poor Nephew is likely to be amongst the first.

Mrs. Washington joins me in wishing you the return of many new and happy years. With very great esteem etc.[85]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

January 22, 1793.

Dear Sir: Nothing occurs to me as necessary to be added to the enclosed project. If the Subscription is not confined to the

[84] Fifteen States voted in the election of 1792. The vote for Washington was unanimous, all 132 electoral votes being cast for him. Adams received 77 votes for Vice President, George Clinton, 50; Thomas Jefferson, 4; and Aaron Burr, 1.

[85] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by George A. Ball, of Muncie, Ind.

members of the Philosophical Society, I would readily add my mite to the means for encouraging Mr. Mechaud's undertaking; and do authorise you to place me among, and upon a footing with the respectable sums which may be Subscribed. I am etc.[86]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, January 23, 1793.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: Since my last Communication to you on the subject of the Revenue on distilled Spirits, it has been found necessary, on experience, to revise and amend the arrangements relative thereto, in regard to certain Surveys and the officers thereof in the District of North Carolina, which I have done accordingly in the manner following.

1st. The several Counties of the said District originally and heretofore contained within the first, second and third Surveys, have been allotted into, and are now contained in two Surveys; one of which (to be hereafter denominated the first) comprehends the Town of Wilmington, and the Counties of Onslow, New Hanover, Brunswick, Robertson, Sampson, Craven, Jones, Lenox, Glascow, Johnston and Wayne; and the other of which (to be hereafter denominated the second) comprehends the Counties of Kurrituck, Camden, Pacquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Gates, Hartford, Tyrrel, Bertie, Carteret, Hyde, Beaufort and Pitt.

2dly. The several Counties of the said District originally and heretofore contained within the fifth Survey of the District aforesaid, has been allotted into and is contained in two Surveys; one of which (to be hereafter denominated the third)

[86] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

comprehends the Counties of Mecklenburg, Rowan, Iredell, Montgomery, Guilford, Rockingham, Stokes, and Surry; and the other of which (to be hereafter denominated the fifth) comprehends the Counties of Lincoln, Rutherford, Burke, Buncombe and Wilkes.

3dly. The duties of Inspector of the Revenue in and for the third Survey, as constituted above, are to be performed, for the present, by the Supervisor.

4thly. The compensation of the Inspector of the Revenue for the first Survey, as above constituted, are to be a Salary of Two hundred and fifty Dollars p annum, and Commissions and other emoluments similar to those heretofore allowed to the Inspector of the late first Survey, as it was originally constituted.

5thly. The compensation of the Inspector of the Revenue for the second Survey, as above constituted, are to be a salary of One hundred Dollars p annum, and Commissions and other emoluments heretofore allowed to the Inspector of the late third Survey, as it was originally constituted.

6thly. The compensations of the Inspector of the Revenue for the fifth Survey, as above constituted, are to be a Salary of One hundred and twenty Dollars per annum, and the Commissions and other emoluments similar to those heretofore allowed to the Inspector of the last fifth Survey, as it was originally constituted.[87]

To CHARLES CARROLL, OF CARROLLTON

Philadelphia, January 23, 1793.

Dear Sir: The Western Indians having proposed to us a conference at Au Glaise[88] [not far distant from Detroit] in the

[87] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. The letter was read in Congress on January 26.

[88] The conference was held at Lower Sandusky in April, 1793.

ensuing spring, I am now about to proceed to nominate three Commissioners to meet and treat with them on the subject of peace.[89] what may be the issue of the conferences it is difficult to foresee, but it is extremely essential that, whatever it be, it should carry with it the perfect confidence of our citizens that every endeavor will have been used to obtain peace which their interests would permit. for this reason it is necessary, that characters be appointed who are known to our citizens for their talents and integrity, and whose situation in life places them clear of every suspicion of a wish to prolong the war, or say rather whose interest, in common with that of their country, is clearly to produce peace. characters uniting these desiderata do not abound, some of them too are in offices inconsistent with the appointment now in question, others under impediments of health or other circumstances so as to circumscribe the choice within a small circle. desirous in the first instance that you should be in this commission, I have mentioned these difficulties to shew you, in the event of your declining, how serious they are, and to induce you to come forward and perform this important service to your country, a service with which it's prosperity and tranquillity are intimately connected.

it will be necessary to set out from this place about the [1st] of [May]. the route will be by the North river and [Niagara], it will be safe, and the measures for your comfortable transportation and subsistence taken as effectually as circumstances will admit. will you then permit me, Sir, to nominate you, as one of the Commissioners, with a certain reliance on your acceptance? your answer to this by the *first* post will oblige, dear Sir, &c.[90]

[89] Benjamin Lincoln, Beverley Randolph, and Timothy Pickering were finally appointed commissioners.

[90] The draft is in the writing of Thomas Jefferson. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington. This same letter was written (January 31) to Charles Thomson, a press copy of which is in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, January 25, 1793.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives: I lay before you an official statement[91] of the Expenditure to the end of the year 1792, from the Sum of Ten thousand Dollars, granted to defray the contingent expences of Government, by an Act passed on the 26 of March 1790.[92]

Also an abstract of a supplementary Arrangement made in the District of North Carolina, in regard to certain Surveys, to facilitate the execution of the Law laying a duty on distilled Spirits.[93]

To THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW CHURCH IN BALTIMORE

[Philadelphia, January 27, 1793.]

Gentlemen: It has ever been my pride to merit the approbation of my fellow Citizens by a faithful and honest discharge of the duties annexed to those stations in which they have been pleased to place me; and the dearest rewards of my services have been those testimonies of esteem and confidence with which they have honored me. But to the manifest interposition of an over-ruling Providence, and to the patriotic exertions of united america, are to be ascribed those events, which have given us a respectable rank among the nations of the Earth.

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[91] This statement is entered in the "Letter Book" immediately following this message.

[92] In the *Journal of the Proceedings of the President in the Washington Papers* is recorded under January 26 the following: "The Attorney General of the United States brot. to the President for his signature (which was affixed thereto) a Resolution of the board of Trustees for purchasing the public debt, [Trustees of the Sinking Fund] to lay out 150,000 dollars in purchasing 6 per Cent and deferred Stock agreeably to the Acts passed for that purpose."

[93] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

We have abundant reason to rejoice that in this Land the light of truth and reason has triumphed over the power of bigotry and superstition, and that every person may here worship God according to the dictates of his own heart. In this enlightened Age and in this Land of equal liberty it is our boast, that a man's religious tenets will not forfeit the protection of the Laws, nor deprive him of the right of attaining and holding the highest Offices that are known in the United States.

Your prayers for my present and future felicity are received with gratitude; and I sincerely wish, Gentlemen, that you may in your social and individual capacities taste those blessings, which a gracious God bestows upon the Righteous.[94]

*To GEORGE AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, January 27, 1793.

My dear George: I do not write to you often, because I have no business to write upon; because all the News I could communicate is contained in the Papers which I forward every week; because I conceive it unnecessary to repeat the assurances of sincere regard and friendship I have always professed for you, or the disposition I feel to render every Service in my power to you and yours; and lastly because I conceive the more undisturbed you are, the better it is for you.

It has given your friends much pain to find that change of Air has not been productive of that favorable change in your health, which was the wishes of them all. But the will of Heaven is not to be controverted or scrutinized by the children of this world. It therefore becomes the Creatures of it to submit with patience and resignation to the will of the Creator whether it be

[94] This answer and the address from the members of the New Church, which is dated January 22, are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. The answer was inclosed in a brief note of January 27 from Tobias Lear to Henry Didier, of Baltimore, Md. This note is also entered in the "Letter Book."

to prolong, or to shorten the number of our days. To bless them with health, or afflict them with pain.

My fervent wishes attend you, in which I am heartily joined by your Aunt, and these are extended with equal sincerity to Fanny and the Children. I am always your Affecte. Uncle.

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, January 27, 1793.

Mr. Whiting: Your letter of the 23d., and Reports came to hand at the usual time. It is a little extraordinary that Davenport should delay making the experiment I directed so long as he did; and then to do it in so unsatisfactory a manner; when he knew, or might have known, that my object in making it was to ascertain whether my interest would be most promoted by manufacturing the Wheat, or selling it in the Grain. I fear he is too lazy to give the necessary attention to the business which is entrusted to him; for it was my full expectation that he would have mixed the common, and white wheat by some uniform proportion together, through the whole manufactury of them; as they do at Brandywine and other Mills in this State; where, it is the opinion of the Millers, that Superfine flour, of the first quality, cannot be made without *some* white wheat. To do this would have given him a little trouble; and trouble, I presume, is what he is not overfond of. The price, as well as quantity of Shorts and Bran, ought to be inserted in the account to give it accuracy and fairness: and this price ought to be regulated by their proportionate value to Corn and Oats, in feeding the work horses. After the danger of having the Navigation of the Creek interrupted by Ice, is over, it might not be amiss to save me the expence of Storage of this article flour in Alexandria. as it can, when sold, be sent from the mill in the first instance.

I am concerned to find that the Crop of wheat is likely, ultimately, to fall so much below expectation; and it is singular that all the Stacks, latterly, though equal in size and appearance, should be so unequal in their yield, when compared with those which were first got out, in August and September. Disappointment in the Wheaten Crop I did not, I must own, expect. My apprehension, that the Indian Corn Crop would fall short of the calculation, was always great, even before the frost, and more so afterwards. You will, I am persuaded, have every care possible taken of it; and the Bran, which will be a valuable aid to it.

I do not disapprove your sowing the New ground at Dogue run with Oats (in such quantity to the acre as you may judge best) along with the Clover. It will, unquestionably, add to the profit which is to be derived from the ground; and I think the Clover is always better when sown with grain that will protect it (in its infant state) from the Sun, and preserve it against Weeds, than when it is sown quite alone. When you speak of Clover for this ground, I presume you mean to mix Timothy with it; this, in my opinion ought uniformly to be the case; except where it is sown for the purpose of Seed. I do not care by what means, or in what way, the grass seeds are sown, so as that it is done with regularity; and the quantity allotted, bestowed to the Acre. To mix it well with Sand, or dry earth (sand is best) and the quantity of Seed designed to the Acre given to a bushel, say rather a bushel when mixed; and this sown by stakes where there be no regular furrows, is the best way I have ever tried; for where the Seedsman walks by stakes, and has been accustomed to sow wheat at the rate of a bushel to the Acre, there can be no mistake in this mode. But he must possess more skill than falls to the lot of our common Overseers who can sow the naked seed regularly, and in due proportions: and without

furrows or stakes no man living can do it well, unless it be by chance.

It will be highly pleasing to me if the Swamps at the Ferry and French's could be so well prepared, as to be laid down this Spring in Oats and grasses. But if the roots, grubs, &ca., cannot be radically killed, I had rather wait longer to accomplish this, than to lay the grd. to grass prematurely. For there is no greater eye sore to me than to see foul meadows; nor indeed is there any thing more distructive to scythes, or more wasteful to the grass, than to be cutting amongst stumps and succours wch. spring from them. Let this plantation, henceforward be called "Union Farm, or Plantation" instead of "Ferry and French's."

It would be well to mix your old and new Buck Wheat Seed together, before sowing. In that case, if any of the former is damaged, it will, by a due, and proportionate mixture, fall equally on all the ground; otherwise it might be injurious to a part to be wholly deprived; but you have time enough before it is seeded, to see whether it will vegitate.

I have no objection to the fence round the Vineyard having Thorn and Honey locust both for the security of it; as it must be proof against *human* as well as *brute* intruders; or I shall never be able to partake of the fruits that are within the Inclosure.

As it does not appear by your letter that any addition has been made to the Sand I had, many years ago, brought from Point Comfort; and as that will not be enough to sand the houses which formerly had a Coat, I wish you would engage 20, or 25 bushels more to be brought up from the same or some other place, where that which is white and fine can be had. The Norfolk Packet may, possibly, be engaged to do this.

The quantity of Hemp and Tow Spun in the week, by the Spinners, ought to appear in the Reports; that it may be seen

how they go on: otherwise the Report of this matter amounts to nothing, and a general acct. of this work ought to be kept, that when it is delivered out again, their may be an accordance between the *receipts* and *delivery;* unless this done there is no check.

What is the matter with Old Frank, that he is always (almost) on the Sick list? I am inclined to believe that he finds the House too comfortable to quit, or he would not be so often, and so long in it at a time. And Boatswain I see too, last week was returned as a Jobber at Dogue run Plantation. I do not wish to see any of the Ditchers, or House People employed at the Plantations, as each certainly have force enough of its own, to do all that is required of them, except ditching.

I wish you may not find No. 4 and 5 at the River Plantation, very unproductive fields; and very injurious to break, unless it is done with judgment. My intention was to keep them for common pasture; To have endeavoured to stop the gullies; and to have prevented the washed places from getting worse by covering them with Straw; and to have sown the Seeds of the common locust thereon, or something that would (in a few years, have cloathed it with a growth that would have proved a remedy for the present evil. That field is very apt to wash, at present it is very much gullied, and if uncommon attention is not paid to it in the working and in laying it down it will be unfit hereafter for grass even except in a few spots. I am etc.

*To WILLIAM WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, January 30, 1793.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 15th. of October to my Nephew Majr. G: Auge. Washington, after some forward, and a retrograde movement found him at Colo. Bassetts in New Kent, Virginia; to which place for change of air, and a warmer

situation for the winter, he had embarked (by water) about the middle of that month, so much reduced, poor fellow! as to be hardly able to stand. From thence your letter was forwarded to me. By the last post from Richmond we had accounts of his being *then* alive, but so low as not to be able, it was supposed, to survive many days.

The above detail will account for the lapse of time between the date of your letter to my Nephew, and this acknowledgment of it from me. To acknowledge it himself he could not.

Whatever sum shall be found due to me on acct. of Royal Gift (after all the charges are paid, and such other deductions made as may be satisfactory for your expence and trouble in this business) I would thank you for remitting me in the manner most convenient to yourself, perhaps none will be more so than in Bills from your Branch, on the Bank of the United States in this City.

The season is now so far advanced, that there is no alternative with respect to Royal Gift. He must therefore remain with you another Covering Season; for besides the hazard of removing him in *cold* weather on *frozen* ground, he could scarcely arrive in time, certainly not in order for the Services that would be required of him next Spring at Mount Vernon. He is therefore committed to your care and management during that period.

My best wishes, in which Mrs. Washington joins me, are presented to you and your lady, and I am etc.

To REVEREND THORNTON FLEMING, VALENTINE COOKE, AND WILLIAM McLENAHAN

Philadelphia, January 30, 1793.

Gentlemen: I was pleased to find by your representation (dated the 19 of Decemr. 1792, and which did not get to my hands 'till a few days ago) that the opposition to the Law of

the United States laying a duty on distilled spirits, is not so universal in the Counties of this State, West of the Alleghaney, as it has been generally represented; and that you are determined to use your influence in your several spheres to inculcate the necessity and advantage of a peaceable compliance with that Law. Your conduct on this occasion is that of good Citizens, and certainly meritorious; for so generally acceptable does that law appear to be throughout the U. S. that I think it would not have met with the opposition which it has in your quarter, if falsehoods and misrepresentations respecting it's operation and tendency had not taken place of fair and candid explanation, which, I am persuaded, is only wanting to lead to a ready acquiescence on the part of the people at large; and I hope and trust that those good and enlightened characters, who have at heart the true interests of the public, will endeavour to effect by fair and just representations, what it would be extremely painful, however necessary, to carry into operation by compulsive means.[95]

To NICHOLAS VAN STAPHORST

Philadelphia, January 30, 1793.

Sir: Expecting to have occasion to pay a small sum in Amsterdam, I embrace the opportunity of a Vessel sailing from hence to that place, to enclose you the first of Exchange, drawn by George Meade Esquire on Henry Gildermeester in your favor, for Two thousand three hundred and ten Guilders, Holland Currency, at 30 days; which I wish you to retain in your hands 'till further advice from me. I shall write to you by the British Packet which sails on the 6 of February, and will then remit the second Exchange: and if the Ship by which this

[95] The letter sent (an L. S.) is in the St. Louis Mercantile Library and varies from this "Letter Book" copy in minor verbal details only.

letter goes, should not sail tomorrow, as is expected, I will write to you further on this subject by her. With due consideration, I am etc.[96]

*To MARQUISE DE LAFAYETTE

Philadelphia, January 31, 1793.

Madam: If I had words that could convey to you an adequate idea of my feelings on the present situation of the Mr. de la Fayette, this letter would appear to you in a different garb. The sole object in writing to you now, is to inform you that I have deposited in the hands of Mr. Nicholas Van Staphorst of Amsterdam, Two thousand three hundred and ten guilders holland currency, equal to two hundred guineas subject to your orders.

This sum is, I am certain, the least I am indebted for services rendered me by Mr. de la Fayette, of which I never yet have received the account. I could add much, but it is best perhaps that I should say little on this subject. Your goodness will supply my deficiency.

The uncertainty of your situation (after all the enquiries I have made) has occasioned a delay in this address and remittance; and even now, the measure adopted is more the effect of a desire to find where you are, than from any knowledge I have obtained of your residence.[97]

At all times, and under all circumstances, you, and yours, will possess the regard of him, who has the honor &c.[98]

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[96] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On February 4 Washington sent the second bill of exchange, with a brief note, to Van Staphorst, and on March 15 he forwarded the third. These letters are also entered in the "Letter Book."

[97] A translation by Tobias Lear of a letter from the Marquise to Washington, dated from Chavaniac, Oct. 8, 1792, is in the *Washington Papers*. It had not, apparently, reached Washington at the time this letter was written.

[98] From the *Monroe Papers* in the Library of Congress. Marked by Washington "Duplicate."

To NICHOLAS VAN STAPHORST

Philadelphia, January 31, 1793.

Sir: I wrote to you yesterday by the Ship Holland and enclosed the first bill of Exchange for Two thousand three hundred and ten Guilders; at the same time I observed, that if the Vessel should not sail this day as was expected, I would write to you further on the subject of the bill. Accordingly, I have now to request that you will be so good as to convey the enclosed Letter to Madame La Fayette by some safe hand, if you know where she is to be found, and hold the amot. of the Bill remitted (2310 guilders) subject to her order.

I have taken the liberty, Sir, to trouble you on this business, as the place of Madme. La Fayette's residence since she quitted France, is entirely conjectural with me; but from the vague accounts we have had in this Country it is probable that if she should not be in Holland, it would be known there where she is to be found. I am etc.[99]

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, January 31, 1793.

Gentlemen: The regular course which the affairs of The Federal City are likely to move in by the appointment of a Superintendant, who may relieve you from details, and from all sacrifices of time except your periodical meetings, enables me now to proceed, on more certain ground, to the subject of compensation. That a proper compensation should be made you, must undoubtedly be the public expectation as well as your own, although the Law is silent thereupon. In proposing

[99] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

the sum, I do not see that I can take a better guide than that of the Legislature, which in fixing the compensation for members of Congress [1] has furnished a kind of standard to which for services and qualifications in a certain line may be referred. I should therefore propose to you Six Dollars a day, for the days of actual service, and milage for travelling, in lieu of service and all expences to commence from the first day of the present year.

With respect to the past, I have more difficulty to name a sum, because I do not know the time you have actually sacrificed, and perhaps it would not be practicable for yourselves to state it. On the best judgment I am able to form of it, however, I should propose the sum of One thousand Dollars, each, for your services preceding the commencement of the present year. Should these propositions not exactly meet your own ideas, I shall be very happy to receive your observations on them. With great esteem, I am etc.

PS. My meaning is, that the above sum of One thousand dollrs. should be exclusive of your expencies.[2]

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

(Private)

Philadelphia, January 31, 1793.

Gentlemen: I have had under consideration Mr. Hallet's plans for the Capitol, which undoubtedly have a great deal of merit. Doctor Thornton [3] has also given me a view of his.

[1] Congressional salaries, established by the First Congress, were $6 a day and $6 for every 20 miles of travel to and from Congress.

[2] In the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress. The P. S. is in the writing of Washington.

[3] Dr. William Thornton.

These last come forward under some very advantageous circumstances. The Grandeur, Simplicity, and Beauty of the exterior; the propriety with which the apartments are distributed; and the œconomy in the mass of the whole structure, will, I doubt not, give it a preference, in your eyes, as it has done in mine, and those of several others whom I have consulted, and who are deemed men of skill and taste in Architecture. I have therefore thought it better to give the Doctor time to finish his plan, and for this purpose to delay 'till your next meeting a final decision. Some difficulty arises with respect to Mr. Hallet, who, you know, was in some degree led into his plan by ideas we all expressed to him. This ought not to induce us to prefer it to a better; but while he is liberally rewarded for the time and labour he has expended on it, his feelings should be saved and soothed as much as possible.

I leave it to yourselves how best to prepare him for the possibility that the Doctor's plan may be preferred to his. Some ground for this will be furnished you by the occasion you probably will have for recourse to him as to the interior of the apartments, and the taking him into service, at a fixed allowance, and I understand that his necessities render it material that he should know what his allowance is to be.[4] With great esteem &c.[5]

To THOMAS JOHNSON

Philadelphia, February 1, 1793.

Sir: While I acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 16 of february, I cannot but express the regret with which I received the resignation of your Office of Associate Justice of

[4] Dr. Thornton's plans were followed.

[5] In the writing of Tobias Lear in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

the Supreme Court,[6] and sincerely lament the causes which produced it.

It is unnecessary for me to say how much I should have been pleased had your health and other circumstances permitted you to continue in Office; for besides the difficulty of finding characters to fill the dignified and important station of Judge, in whom are combined the necessary professional, local and other requisites, the resignation of persons holding that high office conveys to the public mind a want of stabiliity in that Department, where it is perhaps more essential than in any other. With sentiments of the highest esteem and regard, and sincere wishes for your health and happiness, I am etc.[7]

*To DAVID STUART

Philadelphia, February 1, 1793.

Dear Sir: Yesterday I wrote two letters to the Commissioners. One public, the other private. The first giving ideas of the compensation which ought to be made them for their past, and an allowance for future Services. In doing this I did not, as the Law is silent, chuse to be governed wholly by my own judgment; and therefore took the opinion of known friends to the District, and to yourselves. The result, you have handed to you in the letter above mentioned. I hope it will be satisfactory; if not, say wherein it is otherwise. The sum therein mentioned is exclusive of your expences, which, it is presumed, have been paid from the public fund.

Doctr. Thornton's Plan for the Capitol, is so much superior to any I have seen, that I have no hesitation in giving it a decided preference. He will attend your meeting in March; which, if the sitting continues a few days, or if delayed until

[6] Of the United States. (See Washington's letter to the Senate, Feb. 28, 1793, *post.*)
[7] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

Monday the 4th. of that month, and the Commissioners to be in George Town during that Week, They would have an opportunity of seeing most, if not all the Southern Members who will be returning home by land, as Congress must rise the third of that Month. Many advantages would result, in my opinion, if pains was taken to make them better acquainted with this matter than most of them seem to be. The exertions of next Summer will, if great, be all in all in this business. With much regard I am etc. [H.S.P.]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, February 3, 1793.

Mr. Whiting: Your letter of the 25th. of Jany. came duly to hand; but the usual one, containing the Reports, is not yet arrived; detained, as is supposed with the Mail, by Ice in the Susquehanna.

Under cover with this letter you will receive some Lima Beans which Mrs. Washington desires may be given to the Gardener; also Panicum or Guinea Corn, from the Island of Jamaica, which may be planted merely to see the uses it can

On February 1 "The Wabash and Illinois Indians met the President on business at his house this day at 12 O'clock, where they continued 'till 3 O'clock. Present, the Secretary of State, the Secy of War, Govr. St. Clair, the Atty. Genl. Genl. Lincoln, Capt Prior and the Gentlemen of the President's family. 8 men and 3 women of the Indians: 2 Indian Interpreters and one french Do. (see the President's speech and the Indians' reply)." No copy of the President's speech is now found in the *Washington Papers,* but a press copy of Jefferson's record of the Indian speeches on February 1 and 4, is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. These notes end as follows: "The President then assured them that he would take into consideration what they had said, and would give them an answer on another day, whereupon the Conference ended for the present." The *Journal of the Proceedings of the President* records for February 4: "The Wabash and Illinois Indians met the President at his House this day at 2 O'clock, where after making speeches, and delivering a pipe and strings of Wampum, they dined with the Presidt. Present, six men and two women of the Indians and the two French Interpreters, viz Capt. Marrat and ——— Jous. The Secy of State, the Secy of War, the Atty Genl. Govr. St. Clair Colo. Pickering and the gentlemen of the President's family were present and dined here, except Colo. Pickering. The Secy of State took notes of the Indians speeches."

be applied to; and the white bent grass with the description of it by Mr. Hawkins (one of the Senators, who had it from Mr. Bassett of Delaware State, another of the Senate). If the Acct. of it be just, it must be a valuable grass; I therefore desire it may be sowed in drills, and to the best advantage for the purpose of seed. *These things* which are intended for experiments, or to raise as much seed from, as can be; shd. never be put in fields, or meadows; for there (if not forgot) they are neglected; or swallowed up in the fate of all things within the Inclosures that contain them. This has been the case of the Choricum (from Mr. Young) and a grass which sold for two Guineas a quart in England and presented to me. And the same, or some other fate equally as bad has attended a great many curious seeds which have been given to, and sent home by me at different times but of which I have heard nothing more; either from the inattention which was given to them in the first instance; neglect in the cultivation; or not watching the period of their seeding, and gathering them without waste. The intention of the little garden by the Salt house &ca., was to receive such things as required but a small space for their cultivation. And what is called the Vineyard Inclosure, was designed for other articles of experiment, or for seed which required still greater space before they were adopted upon a large scale; yet, the plants which are deposited there are, generally, so over-run with grass and weeds as to be destroyed before a judgment can be formed of their utility. This, I know, has absolutely been the case with many things which have been given to me as curiosities, or for their value. From the fancy grass (of which I have (being told that both horses and cattle are fond of it) a high opinion)[8] I have been urging for years (it being more than five years since I sowed it myself) the saving of Seed; yet,

[8] The double parenthesis is used by Washington.

it is almost in Statu quo, because the necessary measures have not been taken to propagate and save the Seed, and because it will not, I believe, be overcome by anything else; whilst other things not so hardy have been eradicated by the grass and weeds. I now desire that all these things may be attended to by the Gardener and those who are with him, aided, if necessary, by the house-gang.

I will enquire if Orchard grass seed is to be had here and will send some; but I must entreat you to save me, as much as possible from the necessity of purchasing seeds; for the doing it is an intolerable expence. I once was in the habit of saving a great deal of this and other seeds annually; and this habit might easily have been continued, if measures had been taken in time for it.

I am sorry to hear that you have so sick a family. In all cases that require it, let the Doctor be sent for in time. As I do not know what boy (before I get home) would be best to send to the Mill, the measure may be suspended until I arrive. If the Miller would be attentive (in time) to the wants of the Mill, there is certainly intercourse enough between the Mansion house and it, to obtain supplies without special messengers, and I know no right he has to be sending my people on any other business.

I have no doubt at all, of Wheat and flours bearing a good price this Spring; the causes that occasioned the rise in these articles still exist, and in a greater degree; but, that I may know when the price offered, comes up to my ideas, keep me regularly advised of the Alexandria rates. the prices here of Superfine flour is 42/. and that of fine 39/. pr. Barrl. of 196 lbs. Wheat 8/6 pr Bushl.

It appears to me, that it is scarcely necessary to put Tom Davis to the Saw so late in the season; the time is not far off

when Brick laying, preparing the foundation, &ca. must necessarily take him from it. Therefore, as he is better acquainted with the business than any of my people I should conceive he had better employ the interval in finishing the painting; unless you think (house) Frank could do it equally well. In that case, as it will probably be the last of March before I shall be at home, for a few days, he might be as advantageously occupied in that business as in any other.

Speaking of laying bricks (by which I mean the foundation for the Barn at Dogue run) it reminds me of asking again if the Bricks at that place have been assorted and counted; that the deficiency of the wanted number, if any, might have had the earth thrown up, from the foundation of the building, in time to be ameliorated by the frosts of the Winter. Directions will forever escape you, unless you keep a pocket memorandum book to refresh the memory; and questions asked (in my letters) will often go unanswered unless, when you are about to write, the letter *is then,* not only read over, but all the parts, as you read on, is noted, either on a piece of waste paper, or a Slate which require to be touched upon in your answr.

I hope the delivery to and the application of Nails, by the Carpenters, will undergo a pretty strict comparative scrutiny, without expressing any suspicion, unless cause shall be given for it. I cannot conceive how it is possible that 6000 twelve penny nails could be used in the Corn house at River Plantn. but of one thing I have no great doubt and that is, if they can be applied to other uses, or converted into cash, rum, or other things, there will be no scruple in doing it.

I can conceive no latch (sufficient to answer the purpose, and not always out of sorts) more simple or cheaper than those to the white gates, unornimented, which is unnecessary. a thin

plate of iron, kept in place by an old Iron hoop (of which I presume hundred could be got in Alexandria for a mere song) and staple for it to catch in, is, in my opinion, as cheap as anything that (will not always be a plague) can be devised. The advantage of this latch is, that let the Gate swag as it may, it always catches. The top of the flat Iron ought to shew, that strangers may know how to open it on either side but there is not the least occasion for the round like that at the Gumspring, nor of the Curl like those at the White Gates; nor is there any occasion to make the flat part longer, or stiffer than is necessary for the spring. Most other kinds of latches after the gates settle, are not only insecure but exceedingly troublesome; instance that at the ferry, which was vexing to every one who went in. I was obliged always to dismount either to open or shut it. However, if you know of any other kind more simple than the above, equally secure, and which will not be troublesome to open, I have no objectn. to the adoption.

It would be proper, I conceive, as the house people are under the care of Mr. Butler, to entrust Will (Overseer as he is called) in preference to Davis, with the Command of the Boat, and such other out of sight jobs, as may occur, and require confidence; and, as they do not agree, to let them interfere as little as can be avoided, with each other. The latter is high spirited, and in the instance you mention was disobedient to the other whom he ought to have respected on two accts., namely, being his uncle, and having been an Overseer. The former (Will) unless he feels hurt on being superseded in his Overseership, is entitled to more confidence; though, I believe, both of them will drink.

Sarah Flatfoot (you call her Lightfoot) has been accustomed to receive a pair of Shoes, Stockings, a Country cloth Petticoat, and an Oznabrig shift, all ready made, annually, and it is not

meant to discontinue them: You will therefore furnish them to her.

As the matter has been mentioned to Mr. Chichester, I now wish you would see him yourself on the subject of Major Harrisons land; and find out, if you can from him, the circumstances under which it is, whether he seems to have any inclination to become the purchaser of it. At what price pr. Acre, or otherwise, it was offered to him; and for what he thinks it could be bought; Intimating what you conceive to be my motives for making it, if made at all by me.

If the Mail should arrive before this letter is closed, and I have time, I will acknowledge the receipt of it; if not, and nothing requires to be noticed sooner, I shall delay writing until this day week as usual. I am etc.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Sunday Morng., February 3, 1793.

The enclosed,[9] containing some things which are not in Gouvr. Morris official letter, the President sends it for Mr. Jefferson perusal.[10]

To ROBERT TOWNSEND HOOE

Philadelphia, February 7, 1793.

Sir: I have duly received your Letter of the 1st instant, enclosing Mr. Bennett's claim against Mr. Colville's Estate, and requesting to know when you can receive any part of the money.

It is true that Judgment was obtained against the Assignees of John Semple for the Debt due the Estate of the late Colo. Colville; but I have been informed since, that they either have

[9] Jefferson has noted thereon that the inclosure was Morris's letter of Oct. 23, 1792, the original of which is in the *Washington Papers*.

[10] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

applied, or mean to apply to the High Court of Chancery for an Injunction to stay execution, until it is finally determined whether they are obliged to pay the interest due on that Debt, or not, (which in fact was the only point in dispute). If this be the case (and whether it is or not Mr. Keith knows better than I do) the matter is still in suspence; and until this is decided, I should not think myself justifiable (even if I had the means in my hands) in paying the interest charged in Mr. Bennett's Account, with which this is connected; for altho' the paying or withholding the Interest can be of no personal moment to me, yet my duty as an Exor obliges me to do that justice from the Estate that is rendered to it.

I have no wish to retain for a moment any money that may come into my hands on Account of Colo. Colville's estate, when it is due and can be paid with propriety and safety; for so tedious and perplexing has been the settlement of these matters to me, that I am extremely anxious to have the business closed as speedily as possible, and no exertions that it has been in my power to make, have been wanting to effect this desirable end.

I am not able at present to go into any investigation of the particulars of Mr. Bennett's Accot. which you have enclosed, as all the papers &ca. relative to the Debts due to and from Colo. Colville's Estate, are in the hands of Mr. Keith of Alexandria, to whom I must beg leave to refer you for information on the subject of your Letter, and to request the favor of you to forward the enclosed Letter to him; the purport of which is to desire, that if an injunction is not in the way, he will lose no time in settling the business with the assignees of Mr. Semple in conformity to the Judgment of the Court. With great esteem &ca.[11] [H. L.]

[11] In the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge.

To JAMES KEITH

Philadelphia, February 7, 1793.

Sir: The enclosed Letter from Colo. Hooe with a statement of Mr. Bennett's claim against Colo. Colville's Estate, will shew you how anxious he is to have that matter settled; and you well know how extremely anxious I am to have all the business relative to that Estate closed as soon as it can possibly be done. I must therefore beg, Sir, that no time may be lost in settling the matter with the Assignees of Mr. Semple, in conformity with the Judgment obtained against them, if an injunction has not issued to stay Execution, which I was informed they would endeavour to obtain. Should an Injunction have issued, the event of another suit must be awaited before there can be a settlement of Mr. Bennett's Accot., and at any rate it will be proper to investigate the particulars of Mr. Bennett's Accot. and compare them with the documents in your possession relative to Colo. Colville's Estate; for I cannot trust to my memory enough to enable me to form an opinion of the particulars of it, but do confess that it assumes a shape very different from the idea I retain of the Legacy that was left him in the Will by the Testator.

I have referred Colo. Hooe to you for information as to the state of the business with Mr. Semple's Assignees, and at the same time I must beg you will let me know, as early as possible, the situation of that matter, and inform me of the fees that have been paid or are due to the Lawyers who were engaged in that Suit on the part of the Exors., with the other expences incurred in that business, that the whole may be laid before the Court and a final settlement take place.

I cannot close this Letter without repeating to you the anxiety I feel to have a final settlement of all matters relative to

this Estate, and the reliance I have in your attention and industry to leave nothing undone within your power to bring them to a speedy close. With Esteem, I am etc.[12]

To THOMAS PARKER

Philadelphia, February 7, 1793.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 17 of January desiring to know the terms upon which I would dispose of a tract of Land which I have in Gloucester County; and in reply thereto, I can only inform you that I receiv'd it on the 1st. of October 1789, at a valuation of £800 Virga. Curry. in part payment of a Bond due to me and that I am willing to dispose of it for the same sum, with interest, from the said 1st. day of October 1789.

If this price should be agreeable to you, and the time of payment made convenient to me the bargain may soon be closed. It would suit me to receive the money immediately on giving possession of the Land; but if that should not comport with the convenience of the purchaser, the matter may possibly be accommodated by allowing a short time for the payment, letting the debt stand upon good security, and with interest.

Should you on this view of the matter incline to purchase the above mentioned Land, you will be so good as to let me know your determination without delay, and the time in which you would propose to make payment. I am etc.[12]

To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, February 8, 1793.

Dear Bushrod: I am sorry to think I have cause to accuse you of inattention to my requests. When you were at Mount

[12] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

Vernon last, I told you I had been informed that the Assignees of Semple, agst. whom I, as the surviving Executor of the Will of Colo. T. Colville, had obtained Judgment on a Bond, either had thrown, or intended to throw the matter into Chancery; and I desired if this was, or should be the case, that you would unite with Mr. Chas. Lee to bring the matter to issue as soon as possible, and at any rate that you would let me know the true state of the case. This you promised to do immediately upon your arrival in Richmond, since which I have not heard a word from you.

The Affairs of this Estate have been a source of extreme trouble and vexation to me, and I am very anxious indeed to have them brought to a close as soon as possible.

My Love, in which your Aunt joins me, is offered to Nancy; and I am, always Your etc.[13]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

United States, February 8, 1793.

By the President's command T. Lear has the honor to transmit to the Secretary of the Treasury, a letter from the Minister of France to the Secretary of State, requesting to be furnished with a certain sum by the Government of the United States;[14] on account of the Debt owing to France, to be laid out for provisions in the United States to be sent to France; and to desire that the Secretary will, tomorrow morning, give the President his opinion on the practicability of complying with the Minister's request.[15]

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[13] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[14] France had applied for 3,000,000 livres. (Noted in Jefferson's letter to Washington, Feb. 12, 1793, also Randolph's letter to Washington, Feb. 14, 1793, in the *Washington Papers.*)

[15] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear S. P. U. S." in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

On February 9 the following note was entered in the "Letter Book" by Bartholomew Dandridge: "Mr. King and Mr. Smith, members of a joint Committee of

To ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON

Philadelphia, February 10, 1793.

Dear Sir: It was not 'till the 8 instant that I had the pleasure to receive your Letter of the 10 ulto. with a copy of the first part of the proceedings of the Society for the promotion of Agriculture, Arts and Manufactures in the State of New York, which accompanied it.

While I beg you to accept my best thanks for your politeness in sending me this book, I bestow, with pleasure, the tribute of praise that is due to the patriotic characters who have instituted, and support so useful a Society.

Convinced as I am that the prosperity of our Country is closely connected with our improvement in the useful Arts, I sincerely rejoice to find another Establishment calculated to promote it's best interests, added to those truly valuable ones which before existed. With great esteem and regard, I am etc.[16]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM MOULTRIE

Philadelphia, February 10, 1793.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's Letter and duplicate of the 8th ultimo, enclosing the deposition of Benjamin Cleveland respecting the murder of some Cherokee Indians, which was transmitted to me agreeably to a Resolve of the Legislature of South Carolina.

Congress, appointed to report a mode of examining the Votes for President and Vice President, and of notifying the persons who shall be elected, of their election, and for regulating the time, place and manner of administering the oath of Office to the President, called to advise, informally, with the President on the occasion, as some of the Committee had doubts of the propriety of the oath being administered before the close of the President's present term. The President answered, that he had never bestowed any thoughts on the subject; that being the first instance of the kind, a precedent ought to be established that would be proper; that the President, as to himself, should be satisfied with whatever was resolved on; but if anything should occur to him he would inform them of it."

[16] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

I cannot on this occasion forbear expressing the extreme regret with which I learn that so cruel and unprovoked a murder has been committed by the white people, and particularly at this juncture. In vain may we expect peace with the Indians on our frontiers, so long as a lawless set of unprincipled wretches can violate the rights of hospitality, or infringe the most solemn treaties, without receiving the punishment they so justly merit.

So deeply is the safety and happiness of every good Citizen and industrious settler on our frontiers involved in these atrocious acts, that unless they will exert themselves to prevent such outrages, or to bring the perpetrators of them to condign punishment, no treaties can secure them, neither will it be in the power of the Government of the United States to protect their persons and property from the depredations of the Indians. With sentiments of respect &c.[17]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, February 10, 1793.

Mr. Whiting: Your letter of the 30th Ulto., enclosing the Reports of the preceeding week, is at hand; but the one which ought to have been here yesterday is not yet arrived: the Mail having again met with some interruption from Ice in the Susquehanna, or some other cause unknown to me.

The Major was permitted to cut Cord Wood from the tops of the trees which had been felled for rails, either for burning Bricks or other purposes; But it is not unlikely that his overseer (Tayler) may Cord it for sale, if he is not watched; for It is established as a maxim in my mind, that, a man who will do wrong to another in one instance, knowingly, will have no

[17] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

scruple in doing it in every instance where it can be done without being liable to discovery. And with respect to his keeping a horse, no matter whether, (as I suppose he will say, at his own expense) it is on his own provender, or that of his Employer, it is my express request that you will, immediately upon the receipt of this letter, inform him (unless he can shew a written permission for the purpose, which I am sure he is not able to do), that if the horse, or mare, or any other animal he is not allowed to keep, is not instantly sent away, that I will, as soon as I reach Mount Vernon, not only turn him off the Plantation but cause him to be sued for a breach of covenant; and for his knavery; for it is not less so, than would be the opening of the Majrs desk, and taking his money: nay, in my estimation the crime is greater; because a man who will defraud another who confides in him, is surely a greater villain than one who robs boldly, at the risque of his life. You may assure Mr. Tayler in the strongest language you can devise; you may even read this part of my letter to him, that no pretence of verbal permission to keep a horse will avail him; for I know from various conversations with the Major on this subject, that it is next to impossible he ever shd have given such leave; and I again add, that the pretext (if it should be offered), of feeding him at his own expence, will not way one moment.

I am very glad you directed Davenport to run his Shorts and Bran through the Mill a second time. It is my wish to make the most, possible, of my Wheat. He ought, as a miller, to have known and done this without direction; and the pretext of not going out to learn it from others, is idle. I will warrant that his trips to Alexandria have afforded him abundant opportunity to be informed how matters are carried on at Rickets Mill, which, I suppose, must be conducted to as good an advantage as at any of the Mills above the Blew-ridge.

Seeing no account in the Reports of getting out and delivering Wheat in the Mill, I must again desire, in strong terms, that the Mill may never stand a moment she can work, for want of Wheat. You are not to be told that the stream on which it stands is a very inconstant one; and, if the weather should turn dry, that the Wheat will remain unground.

I should have no objection to a streightened Road from Manleys bridge onwards, towards the Mill-run; nor to taking off part of No. 7 French's, and adding it to No. 1 opposite; provided, what is taken from the former, is capable of cultivation; otherwise, one field would be diminished in this respect and the other not encreas'd; and this, at least in part, if I recollect rightly, must be the case near the bridge, where the road is much worn down; gullied; and I suppose the ground impoverished. However, I leave the matter to you; on the spot, who can judge better than I can from recollection; what is best to be done: and authorise you to do it accordingly.

The plashing of Cedars in the Neck, I was sure would answer, from what I had seen done at Mr. Bartrams. I have no objection to your filling the vacancies with transplanted ones, if you have confidence they will live; without this the plants will be lost; and time and labour will be thrown away: you were very unsuccessful last year in transplanting ever-greens; and I have been so in all years; until I adopted the method wch. has often been mentioned: However, in this also, I leave to your own judgment. The Seed (if you have it) may be sown notwithstanding; inasmuch as it affords two chances instead of one without loosing time, which is precious. There is no doubt of your plashed Cedars living, if you have not cut them too deep in the kirf. remember that the glutinous or oily substance which surrounds the Cedar berries must be rubbed off, without which, they will never come up.

If Tom Davis's shoulder (the hurt of which it is highly probable did not come as he relates) prevents his working, or even painting, which requires little exertion; I hope you will make him remain with, and instruct Frank as much as he can in mixing, and laying on paint. I wish to have this work accomplished with as little delay as may be.

Thomas Green has written to me begging (having no money with which to buy it, nor the means of bringing it home if he had) that I would let him have three or four barrels of Corn. As it may save him from a pretext of running about in search of it, I desire you will let him have Corn to that amount; as his real and weekly wants may require: charging him for it at the current prices, to be allowed at settlement.

How long did the ground remain covered with the Snow which was falling when you wrote on the 30th. Ulto? What effect does it appear to have had? and how does the Wheat look at this time? I am etc.

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

United States, February 12, 1793.

Sir: The hostile Indians having requested that all the Treaties which have been entered into with the several Western and Northern Tribes, may be produced at the proposed Meeting

The *Journal of the Proceedings of the President* notes that on February 11 "The Indians of the six nations now in Phila. with Captn. Hendricks and his Brother of the Stockbridge Indians and Colo. Lewis of the Canada Indians, dined with the President, together with the Secy of War, Govr. St. Clair, Genl. Putnam, Colo. Pickering, Captns. Prior, Mills and Kersey, Lt. Melcher and Dr. Carmichael. Before dinner the President delivered a short speech to the Indians, thanking them for having gone to the Western Indians with Messages from the U. S. and requesting that they wd. attend the treaty proposed to be held the ensuing spring, and generally expressive of friendship and good will: wh. was answered by the Farmer's Brother, in a style of friendship and goodwill and promising that the Chiefs of the six nations will attend the proposed treaty."

at Sandusky; therefore, in order that the Commissioners for the proposed treaty should be fully informed on the subject of their mission, it would be proper that a summary view shou'd be formed of all the Treaties which have been made with the aforesaid Indians, from the Treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1768 to the present time inclusively; and any well grounded exceptions to the validity of any treaty to be noticed. The parties on both sides which made the several treaties; and in cases of the relinquishment of Lands, the consideration given should be specified. And, perhaps, to have a more comprehensive view of the subject, it would be necessary to extend the enquiry prior to the time above mentioned, so as to comprehend any treaties with the French, relatively to the cession of Lands by the Indians North West of the Ohio.

In the Enquiry it will be necessary to note, as far as the information shall be attainable, the acknowledged proprietors of the Lands relinquished to the Whites, as may have been conceded generally by other Indians bordering on the tribes who may have relinquished the said Lands.

I request that you will undertake this subject, and lay the result before me at as early a period as conveniently may be.[18]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

February 12, 1793.

Dear Sir: Taking it for granted that the several matters enumerated in the Report, herewith returned,[19] are supported by authenticated facts, thoroughly investigated, the statement of them, and the observations thereupon, accord with the sentiments of Dear Sir Yours etc.

[18] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[19] Jefferson's report on the commerce of the United States with foreign nations, which was submitted to the House of Representatives. A press copy under date of February 13 is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, February 13, 1793.

Sir: Arrangements may be made with the Secretary of the Treasury for the immediate payment of One hundred thousand dollars on account of the debt due from the United States to France. The statement of the Account between these Countries will, it is expected, be compleated tomorrow; and the bale. up to the last of December be ascertained; when the propriety of further, and to what extent advances shall be made will be the subject of further consideration.

The Secretary of the Treasury knows of no settlement between Mr. Jay and Mr. Otto in the year 1789; and conceives if such did take place the document respecting it must be in the Secretary of States Office.[20]

To THE SENATE

United States, February 13, 1793.

Gentlemen of the Senate: I lay before you for your consideration and advice, a treaty of peace and friendship made and concluded on the 27 day of September 1792, by Brigadier General Rufus Putnam in behalf of the United States, with the Wabash and Illinois tribes of Indians: and also the proceedings attending the said Treaty, the explanation of the *fourth* article thereof, and a Map explanatory of the reservation to the French inhabitants, and the general claim of the said Indians.

In connexion also with this subject, I also lay before the Senate the copy of a paper which has been delivered by a man by the name of John Baptiste Magee, who has accompanied the Wabash Indians at present in this City.

[20] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

It will appear by the Certificate of Brigadier General Putnam, that the Wabash Indians disclaimed the validity of the said paper, excepting a certain tract upon the Wabash, as mentioned in the proceedings.

The Instructions to Brigadier Genl. Putnam of the 22d. of May, together with a Letter to him of the 7 of August 1792, were laid before the Senate on the 7 of November 1792.

After the Senate shall have considered this Treaty, I request that they would give me their advise whether the same shall be ratified and confirmed; and if to be ratified and confirmed, whether it would not be proper, in order to prevent any misconception hereafter, of the Fourth Article, to guard in the ratification the exclusive pre-emption of the United States to the Land of the said Indians.[21]

To REVEREND WILLIAM McWHIR

Philadelphia, February 17, 1793.

Sir: Until I received your Letter of the 5 inst: it had not occurred to me that the absence of my Nephew would cause an infringement on the punctuality which has heretofore been

[21] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

On February 14 Lear wrote to David Burnes in answer to his letter to the President of February 12, that Washington was "exceedingly sorry to learn that any misunderstanding has taken place between the Commissioners and yourself, relative to your land in the federal City; yet, as the Commissioners were appointed, according to law, for the special purpose of managing all matters within the District and city respecting the ground and public buildings, and thereby relieving the President from the details of that business (which the duties of his Office would have made it impossible for him to have entered into) he declines any interference on the subject of your letter. And adds, that from his knowledge of the Characters of the Gentlemen acting as Commissioners, he does not believe there can be any intention, on their part, to avoid a strict compliance with the terms of the contract made with the proprietors, or to withhold what is justly due to any individual concerned therein. But, that, if you conceive yourself injured by any conduct of their's the door is open for an appeal to that tribunal where every Citizen has a right to seek for justice." The draft of this letter is in *Letters and Papers of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

On February 15, according to the *Journal of the Proceedings of the President,* a committee of both houses of Congress waited on the President at noon to inform

observed in making my annual payment for the support of the poor-School in the Alexandria Academy, and I thank you for reminding me of it. As it has been usual to make this payment to the President or Treasurer of the Board of Trustees for the Academy, I shall be obliged by your requesting one or the other of these Officers to draw upon Mr. Lear, at sight, for the fifty pounds (specifying in the Draft, the purpose for which it is made), as this mode will be safer and perhaps more convenient, than to transmit the amount in Bank Bills, and especially as I should not know to whom to make the remittance, which is the reason for giving you this trouble.

It is with reluctance, Sir, that I decline a compliance with your wishes, to give you letters to certain Gentlemen in Georgia; but I am persuaded that when you recollect that I have had no opportunities of obtaining a personal knowledge of your talents and qualifications as a Teacher, you will readily see the impropriety there would be in my undertaking to recommend upon those points where I am not qualified to judge, and will therefore impute my declining to comply with your request to it's just cause.

Wishing you success in your undertaking and a continuance of health, I am etc.[22]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, February 17, 1793.

Mr. Whiting: It has again happened that, the Mail which ought to have been in yesterday from the Southward, and wch.

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him "that upon counting the Votes given for the President and Vice President, it appeared that George Washington was elected President of the United States, by the unanimous Vote of the Electors, for four year from the fourth day of March next ensuing. After communicating this information to the President, the Committee withdrew."

[22] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

will (it is presumed) bring a letter from you with the Reports of the last week, is not yet arrived; but your letter of the 5th. instt., covering the Reports of the week preceeding that, is at hand.

As I see no great prospect of procuring Orchard grass seeds in this place, if you cannot obtain it in your own Neighbourhood, sow the ground whenever it is in order, and the season fit, (below the Lucern lot) with such other seeds as you shall think best; and I shall be satisfied therewith. or cultivate it if better.

With respect to lime, I scarcely know what to say to you on the subject; and yet no time is to be lost in having the matter ascertained. Enquire on what terms the builders in Alexandria obtain it? from whence? and the cost by the quantity? for it will never do to purchase at the rate you have given for this article in retail. Nor indeed will it do to suffer Davis, and his attendance, to use it in the lavish manner he practices; 1st. in proportioning of it to the sand; and 2d. in the thickness of the mortar joints. He has been accustomed to use Shell lime, and will not make the proper allowance for the difference in strength, between that and stone lime. Before he enters upon the business of Bricklaying next Spring, I wish you would learn from some skilful and candid workman in Alexandria, the proportions of Sand and lime he uses for different kinds of work; and whether a thick, thin or midling joint of morter is best. In *this place,* the modern buildings have a thin joint. I shall by this days Post, write to Colo. Washington of Westmoreland County, reminding him of his promise to use his endeavors to have shells sent up to me; and to know what prospect there is of his success. I will also enquire on what terms it could be sent from Rhode Island, or Boston; But do not let this slacken your enquiries; nor prevent your giving me the result of them, as soon as possibly you can.

I readily consent to the lot (in the River Farm) being first seeded with Turnips, and folded with Sheep after the English method, before it is laid down in Clover. And I beg that fields No. 4 and 5 at that place, may, (as you have promised to do) have every possible attention paid to them; 1st. to recover them, as far as it is in your power, from their present gullied state; and 2dly. so to lay them down, as to prevent this evil, in future.

I know nothing of Mr. Hampsons Acct. (which is herewith returned) but if the Major acknowledged it to be just, or you have any reason to believe it is so, it must be paid as soon as you are in Cash (from the sales of the Ship-stuff, or otherwise) to pay it. The Shingles sent by Mr. Newton to Mount Vernon have long since been paid for at this place, to the order of Mr. Cowper, of whom they were had.

I am sorry to hear that the Itch is among the Negros in the Neck; and hope you have provided a remedy 'ere this. If it was caught in the way you describe, and justice could be done, Garner ought to pay for it. I am not less concerned to hear that a disorder has got among the Sheep at Union Farm. I hope every endeavor will be used to put a stop to it; as I really loose a great many of this valuable species of Stock. I wish you would give each Overseer *positive Orders* to report *every* lamb that falls, and *every* one that dies; that I may be able to form a just opinion of the care and attention they pay to this business. The custom of striking a balance between the number yeaned and deceased in the week will not satisfy me. By this mode of reporting, there may appear an encrease of *one* lamb *only* in a week, when 20 have fallen; if 19 of those twenty have died. True it is that such a report shews the actual increase or decrease, but it gives no idea of what *ought* to be either, and seems calculated for the express purpose of concealing their own want of care in the preservation of the Lambs.

It would, I conceive, have been better to have entrusted the cutting out of the Linnen to the Gardeners wife than to Caroline; who, was never celebrated for her honesty; and who, it is believed, would not be restrained by scruples of conscience, from taking a large toll, if she thought it could be done with impunity.

A very heavy fall of snow happened at this place on Monday night last; but the constant rain of last night and this day will, it is feared, carry it all off; under the unfavorable circumstances of high freshes and gullied fields, by the Sudden dissolution thereof. Wishing you well I remain Your friend.

To THE SECRETARIES OF STATE, AND TREASURY, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

(Private)

United States, February 17, 1793.

Sir: I transmit to you a Copy of a letter from the Secretary of War to me,[23] with the heads of Instructions proposed to be given to the Commissioners who may be appointed to hold a Treaty with the Western Indians, in the spring.

As I intend, in a few days, to call for the advice and opinion of the Heads of the Departments on the points touched upon in the enclosed paper, I must request you will give it an attentive and serious consideration, and note such alterations, amendments or additions, in writing, as may appear to you proper to be introduced into the instructions proposed to be given to the Commissioners.

I shall likewise request the opinion of the same Gentlemen upon the expediency of asking the advice of the Senate, before

[23] The paper inclosed was Knox's draft of instructions to the Commissioners, a fair copy of which, under date of February 16, is in the *Washington Papers*.

the end of their present Session, as to the propriety of instructing the Commissioners to recede from the present boundary, provided peace cannot be established with the Indians upon other terms. I therefore desire you will turn your attention to this matter also, in order that you may be able to give a deliberate opinion thereon, when the Gentlemen shall be called together.[24]

To WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON[25]

Philadelphia, February 17, 1793.

Dear Sir: The last time I had the pleasure of seeing you, you promised (hearing me complain of the difficulty I found in procuring Oyster shells) to use your endeavors to engage the Skippers of the Small Craft in your neighbourhood, to supply me. The season is approaching in which I shall stand in great need of them, and must suffer very much unless I can obtain a supply. Mr. Whiting who looks after my business at Mount Vernon, informs me that he has not received, nor knows not where to get one. Let me pray you therefore to write him (by Post to Alexandria) what your prospects are; what he may depend upon; and in what time. The same account to me, would be very satisfactory; because, if this resource fails, I must try some other means to obtain a supply. My best respects attend your lady in which Mrs. Washington unites; and I am, etc.[26]

*MEMORANDUM FOR GOVERNOR HENRY LEE

Philadelphia, February 18, 1793.

G Washington is one of a Company who took up, in or about the year 1762, all the ungranted land lying in the Great dismal

[24] In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[25] Of Westmoreland County, Va.
[26] The text is from that printed in a sales catalogue of a sale in 1910–11.

Swamp; in the vicinity of Norfolk, Portsmouth and Suffolk; and holds two twenty one parts of the Interest therein.

Forty thousand Acres of the interior and richest part of this Swamp has been (as the Subscriber is informed) patented in the names of the Members of said Company; and, probably, is all they will ever obtain, altho' it is far short of what they expected.

This swamp in fertility of Soil, cannot be exceeded. It is covered with the finest Cyprus and Juniper, and other lofty Wood. Its under growth is luxurient Canes.

In the opinion of the Subscriber it may be easily drained; and when drained is equal to the richest rice land of So. Carolina, which, in its unreclaimed State, sells from ten to fifteen pounds Sterling pr. Acre; and from thirty to fifty when reduced, and in order for cultivation.

Its vicinity to the places above mentioned, and its contiguity to the fine Rivers of Nansemond and Elizabeth on which these places are, gives this tract advantages over almost any other of equal quantity in the United States; and the Canal which is now opening from Elizabeth River to Pasquetanck, a River of Albemarle Sound, passing through the same, adds infinitely to its worth. To describe all its advantages, would require more time than my hurry, and the few minutes you allow me, will enable me to do.

The Company have a Plantation, marked on the plat herewith, Dismal Plantation; which is seperate and distinct from the 40,000 Acres. On this there are, or were a number of Negros, as may be seen by the Agents (Mr. Jameisons) letter to me, besides some money in hand, or in the loan Office. the quantum I know not.

For the whole of this Interest, be it little or much, and it cannot be less than 2/21, parts of 40,000 Acres, I will take Five thousand pounds Virginia Currency; estimating dollars at Six

Shillings, and other Silver and gold in that proportion, provided the bargain is now struck; but shall not think myself bound by this offer if it is not.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, February 18, 1793.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I now lay before you a Report, and Plat of the Territory of the United States, on the Potomac, as given in by the Commissioners of that Territory,[27] together with a Letter from the Secretary of State which accompanied them. These papers being original, are to be again deposited with the Records of the Department of State, after having answered the purpose of your information.[28]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Philadelphia, February 19, 1793.

Sir: I have given due consideration to the papers annexed.[29]

If the usage of the Army has been, that the Officer next in seniority has not only the right to fill the vacancy which is occasioned by death, resignation, or dismission; but also (if adjudged worthy of promotion) to have his Commission dated at the time the said vacancy happened: And, as it appears that the resignation of Captn. Mercer[30] of the first Regiment did actually take place on the 26th. of November 1790 (although

[27] This plat was executed by Andrew Ellicott.

[28] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[29] "The papers annexed were a memorial of several Captns. of the army of the U. S. against the rank of Captn. Armstrong. Extract of a letter from Genl. Harmar respecting Capt. Mercer's resignation. and the opinion of the Secy. of War on the Memorial." This note, in the writing of Lear, is on the verso of this draft.

[30] Capt. John Mercer.

for certain considerations his *pay* was continued until April following) and notice thereof was officially receivd at the War Office on the 5th. of January then next ensuing I can see no principle on which the Memorialists whose military existence as Capts. did not take place until the 4th. of March is founded; and therefore under the statement which is exhibited to me, do give it as my opinion that Captn. Armstrong ought to take rank of the Memorialists.

To THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, February 19, 1793.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: It has been agreed on the part of the United States that a treaty or conference shall be held the ensuing season with the hostile Indians, North West of the Ohio, in order to remove, if possible, all causes of difference and to establish a solid Peace with them.

As the Estimates, heretofore presented to the House for the current year, did not contemplate this object, it will be proper that an express provision be made by law, as well for the general expences of the treaty, as to establish the compensation to be allowed the Commissioners, who shall be appointed for the purpose.

I shall therefore direct the Secretary of War to lay before you an Estimate of the expences, which may probably attend this measure.[31]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM PATERSON

Philadelphia, February 20, 1793.

Sir: The resignation of Mr. Johnson, one of the Associate Justices, having occasioned a vacancy on the bench of the

[31] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Supreme Court of the United States, it is incumbent on me to bring forward a suitable character to fill that place. In performing this part of my duty, I think it necessary to select a person, who is not only professionally qualified to discharge that important trust; but one who is known to the public, and whose conduct meets their approbation. Under this impression, Sir, I have turned my thoughts upon you; and, if you will permit me to nominate you for this office, I shall have the satisfaction to believe, that our Country will be pleased with and benefited by the acquisition.

As an appointment to this Office must be made before the close of the present Session of the Senate, which is near at hand, and it would be convenient if it could be done before the rising of the Supreme Court which is now sitting, in order that the Judges may make their arrangement of the Circuits, it is necessary that I should know your determination as early as possible. I have the honor &c.[32]

To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR

Philadelphia, February 24, 1793.

Sir: I was much pleased with the information you gave me in your Letter of the 19 Inst: relative to the progress of the work on the Potomac, and the prospect there is of navigation being so nearly completed in the course of the ensueing Summer.

I observe, however, that you say nothing of what is doing or about to be done at the Great Falls; but as it is so obvious that the rendering that place navigable is one of the most important objects in the whole business, I presume that every exertion will be made there, in conjunction with the progress of the

[32] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. (See Washington's message to the Senate, Feb. 28, 1793, *post*.)

work in other parts of the river, that the funds of the Company will admit of, and I was happy to learn when I was last in Virginia, that there was no probability of a delay for the want of Cash.

This being the case, I am persuaded that the numerous and great advantages which present themselves, from a speedy completion of the work, will excite every exertion that can possibly be made towards it. With very great regard, I am etc.[33]

*To FRANCES BASSETT WASHINGTON[34]

Philadelphia, February 24, 1793.

My dear Fanny: To you, who so well know the affectionate regard I had for our departed friend, it is unnecessary to describe the sorrow with which I was afflicted at the news of his death, although it was an event I had expected many weeks before it happened. To express this sorrow with the force I feel it, would answer no other purpose than to revive, in your breast, that poignancy of anguish, which, by this time, I hope is abated. Reason and resignation to the divine will, which is just, and wise in all its dispensations, cannot, in such a mind as yours, fail to produce this effect.

The object of the present letter is to convey to your mind the warmest assurances of my love, friendship, and disposition to serve you; These also I profess to have in an eminent degree, for your Children.

What plan you have contemplated, or whether in so short a time you have contemplated any, is unknown to me; and therefore I add, that the one which strikes me most favorably,

[33] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. The original is in the possession of William Smith Mason, of Evanston, Ill. From the typed copy kindly sent by Mr. Mason; the "Letter Book" copy varies in spelling and capitalization only.

[34] Widow of George Augustine Washington.

by being best calculated to promote the interest of yourself and Children, is to return to your old habitation at Mount Vernon. You can go to no place where you will be more welcome, nor to any where you can live at less expence, or trouble; matters at Mount Vernn. are now so arranged as to be under the care of responsible persons, and so they may continue; which would ease you of that anxiety, which the care of so large a family, otherwise, would naturally involve you in. It is unnecessary to observe to you that Housekeeping, under *any* circumstances, and with the best œconomy, is expensive; and, where provision for it is to be made, will be found, I fear, beyond your means.

You might bring my niece, Harriet Washington with you for a Companion; whose conduct, I hear with pleasure, has given much satisfaction to my sister. I shall, under my present view of things, be at Mount Vernon about the first of April for, perhaps, a fortnight; But your Aunt and family will not, I expect, be there before the middle of July. My Affectionate regards attend you and your Children; and I shall always be your sincere friend.[35]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Sunday, February 24, 1793.

Enclosed is a letter from poor Madam La Fayette! How desirable it would be, if something could be done to relieve that family from their present unhappy Situation.

Colo. Smith,[36] yesterday, gave me the enclosed extract of a Letter from the House of Warder and Co. to one of the Partners in this City. Whether it is founded in fact, or with design

[35] From a photostat of the original in the possession of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

[36] William Stephens Smith.

to affect the prices of provision in this Count[r]y, I know not. Nor whether it was a Commn. for public or private information to myself, I am equally uncertain.[37]

To THE SECRETARIES OF STATE, TREASURY, WAR, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

United States, February 24, 1793.

The President of the United States requests the attendance of the ——— *at Nine o'Clock tomorrow morning;* at the President's house, on the subject of the note sent to the ——— on the 17 inst: and that the ——— will bring with him such remarks as he may have committed to writing in pursuance of said note.

At the same time the President will lay before the Heads of the Departments and the Attorney General some communications which he has just received from General Hull.[38]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, February 24, 1793.

Mr. Whiting: Your letters of the 13th. and 17th. Instt. have come duly to hand, but the one, which in the last, you promised to write on the 20th. (that is on the Wednesday following) is not yet received.

I have some idea that Tobacco, after being a certain time in the Warehouses (besides being subject to an annual or monthly tax) is liable also to be sold by public vendue. Inform yourself

[37] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. (See Washington's letter to the Secretary of State, Feb. 26, 1793, *post.*)

[38] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.* The letter, sent to Jefferson, in the writing of Tobias Lear, is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. (See Washington's letters to the Secretaries of State and Treasury and the Attorney General, Feb. 17, 1793, *ante.*)

with precision on these points, and let me know the result; and for what the Tobacco would Sell. Mr. Watson sometime ago wanted to buy it.

I do not think it would answer to lay the foundation of the New Barn at Dogue-run with round stone; and if it would, the Carting of them from Muddy hole and Bricks from the Mansion (where they are always in demand) would be more expensive than making them on the spot; from the Earth taken from foundation of the building, as heretofore directed. Set therefore about making them, at that place.

Davis ought not to be placed among the hands at the Fishery if (Overseer) Will is there; nor indeed on any other account, as the Brick Work of the Barn ought to be hastened as much as possible: for no building was ever more wanting, both for convenience, and to prevent the loss which I am sure is sustained by theft from the grain in the open yards. With this admonition, joined to a desire that the hands which can be best spared, (that is with the least interruption to the most pressing and important work) may be employed at the landing. The allotment of them therefore rests altogether with yourselves as you can decide better on the spot than I can at a distance, who ought, and who ought not to compose the fishing gang.

If the Season and circumstances (for I do not know whether you mean to remove the Houses at Union Farm on Rollers, or after taking them to pieces) will permit you to set abt. it immediately, there is nothing, the accomplishment of which will be more pleasing to me, than the concentration of the houses at the place allotted, on Union Farm. I regretted exceedingly, that the slothfulness of my Carpenters would not enable me to effect this last autumn, whilst the ground was firm. If you can do it this Spring without breaking in too much upon other things, it will be highly pleasing to me.

Unless you have received, or may receive, any directions from Mrs. Fanny Washington respecting the building my deceased Nephew was carrying on, it is my opinion that an entire suspension of it had better take place: and with respect to the conduct of the Overseer there, it is my wish and desire that you would attend to him as much as to any of my own. And, in addition to what was mentioned in one of my last letters to you concerning him if he should be detected in any knavish pranks, I will make the Country too warm for him to remain in.

Your accounts of Davenports sloth, impress me more strongly with the idea of his laziness. I therefore request you to tell him, from me, that I expect the Season will not be suffered to slip away, and my Wheat left unground; but on the contrary, that he will work of Nights, as well in the day, as all Merchant Mills do; and which he himself must have done before he fell into the idle habit he has acquired since he has basked in the sun-shine of my Mill.

Harrison's land is bounded on two sides, by mine, and I have little doubt is fed with timber from it; but unless I could no [*sic*] with certainty that it is unincumbered with leases I would not be concerned with it. If this fact can be ascertained, let me know it.

How far have you advanced the grubbing below the old Clover lot? I am anxious for the progress of this work, but not at the expence of any other of more importance.

The correction you gave Ben, for his assault on Sambo, was just and proper. It is my earnest desire that quarrels may be stopped, or punishment of both parties follow; unless it shall appear, *clearly,* that one only is to blame; and the other forced into from self-defence.

If the Chicorium is really, and bona fide a Weed, it had better be exterminated before it sheds its Seed; but from (what you call) the Carolina Grass, and all others in my small Garden by the Salt House, in the Vineyard Inclosure, and elsewhere save what Seeds you can: and if you have enough of the Fancy grass to seed the shady parts of the ground below the Lucern lot, and should prefer laying it to grass this spring, to cultivating it, for the purpose of getting it in better order against another year, sow this ground with that kind of Seed; as I think it will grow well in a shade, and appears to be a hardy and durable grass; of consequence, if horses and Cattle are fond of it, the cultivation must be valuable.

I would never have parted with the horse Sampson, had I thought another would have been called for. To buy and sell at one hundred pr. Ct. loss, is a very unproductive business; nor would I breed from a Horse if I could obtain Colts from the Jacks: but it is to be feared that the same causes which impede the one, would apply to the other. However, rather than not make the experiment, if a well formed, and good blooded horse of proper age and size could be had reasonably, I would buy him: and if such is in your view inform me of it, with sufficient description of him, and the price; but make no positive bargain until I am advised thereof. I remain Your etc.

On February 25, at a meeting of the Cabinet at the President's house, the following questions were propounded to the Cabinet, and the answers given:

"1. The Governor of Canada having refused to let us obtain provisions from that province or to pass them along the water communication to the place of treaty with the Indians, and the Indians having refused to let them pass peaceably along what they call the bloody path, the Governor of Canada at the same time proposing to furnish the whole provisions necessary, Ought the treaty to proceed? Answer unanimously, it ought to proceed.

"2. Have the Executive, or the Executive and Senate together authority to relinquish to the Indians the right of soil of any part of the lands North of the Ohio, which has been validly obtained by former treaties?

"The Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary at war and Attorney general are of opinion that the Executive and Senate have such authority, provided that no grants

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, February 26, 1793.

Sir: The Minister of France may, as soon as he pleases, make arrangements with the Secretary of the Treasury for the payment of Three million of Livres on account of the debt due from the U: States to France (including the one hundred thousand dollars already ordered, in part) agreeably to the requisition of M. Le Brun Minister for Foreign Affairs in that Country, and In such manner as will comport with the State of the Treasury.[39]

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to individuals nor reservations to states be thereby infringed. the Secretary of state is of opinion they have no such authority to relinquish.

"3. Will it be expedient to make any such relinquishment to the Indians if essential to peace?

"The Secretaries of the Treasury and War and the Attorney general are of opinion it will be expedient to make such relinquishment, if essential to peace, provided it do not include any lands sold or reserved for special purposes (the reservations for trading places excepted) The Secretary of state is of opinion that the Executive and Senate have authority to stipulate with the Indians and that if essential to peace it will be expedient to stipulate that we will not settle any lands between those already sold or reserved for special purposes, and the lines heretofore validly established with the Indians.

"Whether the Senate shall be previously consulted on this point?

"4. The Opinion unanimously is that it will be better not to consult them previously."

This record, in the writing of Jefferson and signed by him, and by Hamilton, Knox, and Randolph, is in the *Washington Papers*.

On February 25, also, the President desired the opinion of the Cabinet on the following question: "Mr. Ternant having applied for money equivalent to three millions of livres to be furnished on account of our debt to France at the request of the Executive of that country, which sum is to be laid out in provisions within the U. S. to be sent to France, Shall the money be furnished?" The Cabinet was of the opinion "that the whole sum asked for . . . ought to be furnished." This proceeding, in the writing of Jefferson and signed by him, and by Hamilton, Knox, and Randolph, is in the *Washington Papers*.

[39] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On March 2 the Cabinet decided that "The opinion unanimously is, that the Secretary of the Treasury shall inform Mr. Smith that the Government of the United States have made [or] engaged payments to France to the extent which is at present consistent with their arrangements; and do not judge it advisable to take any measures on the subject of his Application." This opinion, in the writing of Tobias Lear, and signed by Jefferson, Hamilton, Knox, and Randolph, is in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARIES OF THE TREASURY, AND WAR

February 27, 1793.

Sir: As the day is near at hand, when the President-elect is to take the oath of qualification,[40] and no mode is pointed out by the Constitution or law; I could wish that you, Mr. Jefferson (Genl. Knox, or Colo. Hamilton) and Mr. Randolph could meet tomorrow morning, at any place which you may fix between yourselves; and communicate to me the result of your opinions as to time, place and manner of qualification.

P. S. Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Randolph have suggested the idea of meeting at the War Office at *nine o'Clock* tomorrow morning; if this is convenient and agreeable to you, you will be there accordingly; if otherwise you will be so good as to let me know.[41]

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[40] Oath of office.

[41] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

The following memorandum, in the writing of Edmund Randolph, under date of February 27, is in the *Washington Papers:*

"If the qualification is to be in private, T. J, A. H H. K and E. R, are of opinion, that Mr. Cushing should administer the oath to the President at his own house, where such officers, or others, as he may notify, will attend. T. J. and A. H. think, that it ought to be in private.

"H. K. and E. R. on the other hand think, that the qualification ought to be in public: and that the Marshal of the district should prepare the house of Representatives for the purpose where Mr. Cushing shall administer the oath. The Prest. to go without form, accompanied with such gentlemen, as he thinks proper, and return preceded by the Marshall.

"Monday, 12 o'clock, is presumed to be the best time.

"But as the mode will be considered by the public, as originating with the President, it is submitted to him for his decision."

On March 1 a further opinion was given by Knox and Randolph, and a qualified one by Hamilton, as follows:

"It is our opinion,

"1. That the President ought to take the oath in public.

"2. That the time be on Monday next at twelve o'clock in the forenoon.

"3. That the place be the Senate-chamber.

"4. That the Marshal of the district inform the Vice-President, that the Senate-chamber, being the usual place of the president's public acts, is supposed to be the best place for taking the oath; and that it is wished, that the chamber be open.

"5. That it may be informally notified to the Vice President governor [of Pennsylvania] and foreign ministers, that the oath is to be taken at the time and place above mentioned.

To THE SENATE

United States, February 28, 1793.

Gentlemen of the Senate: I was led, by a consideration of the qualifications of Willm. Patterson of New Jersey, to nominate him an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.[42] It has since occurred that he was a member of the Senate when the Law creating that Office was passed, and that the time for which he was elected is not yet expired. I think it my duty therefore, to declare that I deem the nomination to have been null by the Constitution.[43]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Thursday Morning, February 28, 1793.

Dr. Sir: It is much to be regretted that the subject of Rations (encreased) had not been thought of and considered at an earlier period! It is to be feared a proposition at this time would be received with an ill grace. probably no attention paid to it. At the meeting you are about to have to would be well to mention the matter and know what the Gentlemen there would think of bringing the matter forward at a time so Mal a propos. Yrs.[44]

"6. That Mr. Cushing be requested to attend; and administer the oath.

"7. That the President go without form attended by such gentlemen, as he may choose, and return without form, except that he be preceded by the Marshal. H. Knox, Edmund Randolph.

"My opinion given yesterday was founded on prudential considerations of the moment; though I think it right in the abstract to give publicity to the Act in question. If this is to be done on the present occasion, I see no objection to the above form. I am not, however, satisfied that prudential considerations are not equally ballanced. A. Hamilton."

Hamilton's opinion is in the *Washington Papers.*

[42] The President had nominated Paterson, in a brief message to the Senate, February 27, which is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.* The Senate confirmed the appointment on March 4.

[43] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[44] A contemporary copy, in the writing of a clerk.

CIRCULAR TO THE UNITED STATES SENATORS

March 1, 1793.

Certain matters touching the public good, requiring that the Senate shall be convened on Monday the 4 instant,[45] you are desired to attend at the Senate Chamber in Philadelphia on that day, then and there to receive and deliberate on such communications as shall be made to you on my part.[46]

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, March 3, 1793.

Gentlemen: This will be handed to you by Doctor Thornton of this City, who goes forward to lay before you a plan which he has prepared for the Capitol proposed to be built in the federal City.

Grandeur, Simplicity and Convenience appear to be so well combined in this plan of Doctor Thornton's, that I have no doubt of its meeting with that approbation from you, which I have given it upon an attentive inspection, and which it has received from all those who have seen it and are considered as judges of such things.

How far the expense of such a building, as is exhibited by the plan, will comport with the funds of the City, you will be the best judges, after having made an estimate of the quantity of materials and labour to be employed in executing it. And to obviate objections that may be raised on this head, it should be considered, that the external of the building will be the only *immediate* expense to be incurred. The internal work, and

[45] This extra session of the Senate convened and adjourned on March 4.

[46] From a photostat of the circular, in the writing of a clerk, sent to Roger Sherman, of Connecticut. The original is in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

many of the ornamental parts without, may be finished gradually, as the means will permit, and still the whole be completed within the time contemplated by law for the use of the building. With very great esteem I am etc.[47]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, March 3, 1793.

Mr. Whiting: I have now two letters of yours before me to acknowledge the receipt of, viz, the 20th. and 27th. of last month.

The price of lime in Alexandria is so extremely high, that every practicable attempt ought to be made to procure shells, one of which may be, by hiring a vessel by the day, and sending it to my Nephew Colo. Washington in Westmoreland, near Mattox Creek with the enclosed letter. I persuade myself if this be done he will not only furnish the Shells, but aid in loading the Vessel. It is left open for your perusal, to be sent or not, as occasion may require. Seal before sending it if it be forwarded at all.

I am in sentiment with you that, such Bricks as my people make will never shew a thin, neat, and regular Morter joint; and that the uneveness of the yard is *one* cause of it; and that another cause is, not beating and tempering the Clay sufficiently: remedies for both these are simple, and easy; and I hope in the Bricks that are to be made, they will be applied. Make more bricks than are immediately wanting for the Barn; because they may be wanted for some other purpose, and because there must be a certain number to form the kiln for burning.

I informed you in my last, that unless Mrs. Washington[48] desired the building to be carried on, that my opinion was, it

[47] In the writing of Tobias Lear in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

[48] Mrs. Frances Bassett Washington.

ought to be stopped: of course as she has also requested the discontinuance of the work, it must be no longer prosecuted. Let all the work that has been done, and the materials which have been provided for carrying it on, be preserved in security for further decision on this matter. And let the two Carpenters (Gabriel and Reuben) belonging to that Estate[49] if not otherwise disposed of by the orders of their Mistress, join mine under Green; and an account taken of the time it happens, that the said Estate may be paid for the hire of them.

I am as apprehensive as you can be, that Green never will overcome his propensity to drink; that it is this which occasions his frequent sicknesses; absences from work, and poverty. And I am convinced, moreover, that it answers no purpose to admonish him. But if the work in hand cannot be carried on without a head to execute it, and no other presents in whom confidence can be placed, there is no alternative but to keep him; unless he should get too bad to be longer borne with; and even then, a house so framed as the Dogue run Barn is intended to be ought not to be entrusted to my Negro Carpenters or any other bungler.

I hope *all* your Gates will be fixed before I come home, provided the ground is in such a state as to admit of being *well* rammed, but not otherwise; for it would be lost labour, and a continual plague if the posts should yield to the weight of the gate, or work loose in any other manner, if the earth around them is not dry enough to bear *very hard* ramming.

Have you got the second Visto so much opened as to be able to form any opinion of the view, and how it will appear from the House?

Hampsons account must be paid as soon as you are in Cash from the sales of your ship stuff &ca.

[49] George Augustine Washington's.

Has the last spell of freezing weather (the ground being uncovered, and very wet) hurt the Wheat? If it escaped damage then, I hope there is no great danger to be apprehended from from frosts after this. I see no account yet of Ice being stored: Snow well rammed would have been better than letting the house go empty.

I am very sorry to hear that so likely a young fellow as Matildas Ben should addict himself to such courses as he is pursuing. If he should be guilty of any attrocious crime, that would affect his life he might be given up to the Civil authority for trial; but for such offences as most of his colour are guilty of, you had better try further correction; accompanied with admonition and advice. The two latter sometimes succeed when the first has failed. He, his father and mother (who I dare say are his receivers) may be told in explicit language that if a stop is not put to his rogueries, and other villainies by fair means and shortly; that I will ship him off (as I did Waggoner Jack) for the West Indias, where he will have no opportunity of playing such pranks as he is at present engaged in.

The first time you see Mr. Hartshorn, ask if there now is, or soon will be, any thing due from me to the Potomac Company; and request him to send the Acct. of it to me. I remain your friend and well wisher.

*To DAVID STUART

Philadelphia, March 3, 1793.

Dear Sir: The Official letter from the Commissioners to me, dated the 8th of last month, promising their Sentiments on the subject of compensation, so soon as a meeting was had with Mr. Johnson, prevented my acknowledging the receipt of your private letter of the same date, and on the same subject, until now;

nor shall I do more than slightly touch upon it until I receive the further Sentiments of the board, thereupon.

It may not be amiss, however, in this friendly, and confidential manner; previously to regret that the expectations of the Commissioners, and the opinions of those who were consulted on the compensation proper to be made them, for past, and future services, should accord so little. It is to be observed (as was mentioned in my last) that the Law authorizing the appointment contemplates no pay. Justice however requires it, and therefore, such as it was conceived would meet the concurrence of the public, was allotted. In similar cases it rarely happens, if ever, that high, if any Salleries are allowed. Instance the Directors of the Potomac Company; of the Canal; Navigations of this State; the Bank, &ca. &ca. I do not quote these cases, however, to prove that Salleries ought not to be allowed in the case of the Commissioners of the federal district, for the past, and compensation for their future Services; but only to shew that necessity of their being as low as could comport with justice. With respect to your ideas of a future allowance, I am bold in assuring you, that, no *fixed* Sallery in the United States (however they have been reprobated for their extravagance) from the Chief Magistrate to the Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives is equal to One thousand dollars clear of expences. The reasons are too obvious, to stand in need of enumeration; and I must candidly declare, that I see little use for a Superintendant if more will be requir'd of the Commissioners than either to form, or to adopt plans; give the great outlines thereof in Instruction; and leave the detail and execution to the Superintendant, who ought as I have declared in a letter to you dated the 30th. of November last, to be always on the Spot (unless the duties of the trust should take him away, to facilitate the objects of it). Under this idea, could it suit any person better than

yourself to visit the federal City once every three or four months, suppose every two months, when you have an Estate opposite to it that has a claim to a share of your attention. As to the suspicion which may arise, if you serve for daily pay, that your Sessions will be prolonged by it, they are not worth regarding. The malevolence of man is not to be avoided; but instead of *touching* the subject only, in the manner I proposed, I find I am enlarging upon it, and therefore will change it.

Mr. Jefferson is at a loss to discover what could have proceeded from him to Mr. Ellicott, that should have occasioned any discontent in the mind of the latter, with the Commissioners, and having shewn me the *only* letters which (he says) he has written to him for many months I see nothing therein on which to found the conjecture contained in the latter part of your letter of the 8th. of February.

As I do not take the George Town paper, and have seen no extracts from it in any other, I do not know to what it is you allude in your letters of the 8 and 18th. instt. which came to hand a few days ago. Mr. Ellicot has never come near me since his return to the City; no explanation therefore on this, the case of Mr. Young, or any other subject has taken place between us.

With respect to Mr Young's renewed application for a change towards the point, &ca. I scarcely know what answer to give, at this time. A change in one instance will, I am certain, open a wide door which could not easily be shut. Therefore, before I could consent even to take the matter into consideration, it would be necessary to have an accurate plan of the parts; deliniated upon paper, with the alterations he proposes; and to have the Commissioners opinion of the consequences resultg. from the adoption of it, in writing; for unless there are some powerful reasons for discrimination, it would be bad policy to comply with the request of one of the Propriators, and reject the

application of another. It is possible, and not improbable that I may be at George Town on my way to Mount Vernon about the first of April; when, if every thing was prepared for it, I might on the spot be better able to give an opinion. But, as Mr. Young is in the occupancy of the whole, I see no cause for a hasty decision, which may create (if an alteration should take place) discontents in other quarters. No letter to me, has been received from him as yet. With very great esteem and regard I am etc.[50]

*To WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, March 3, 1793.

Dear Sir: From the information I continually receive from Mr. Whiting (who superintends my business at Mount Vernon) it is likely that I shall, very soon, suffer considerably for want of lime to carry on a building which is now in hand, and which will require about 40,000 Bricks for the ground work of it.

Mr. Whiting has endeavored, in vain, to engage some of the small Craft in the upper part of the River to undertake to supply me with Shells to lay the above number of Bricks; but whether, from not knowing where to obtain the Shells; because it is a trifling business; or because they find more profitable employment in other pursuits I know not, but the fact is, he has not been able hitherto to engage one. This being the case, I have now written to him, to try if he cannot hire a Vessel *by the day,* and send her to you, who I flatter myself will not only furnish me with the Shells (as I know your Estate abounds with them on the margins of tide water) but also in the *present* instance, aid in loading the Vessel. The latter

[50] From a letter press copy in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

however I would not have asked but from the pressure under which I am.

Do *you* hire any of your Negro Carpenters by the year? or do you know who is in the habit of doing, or would do it? Having work on hand and in the prospect that I wish to have compleated as soon as it is conveniently possible, I would hire two, four, or Six if they are good common workmen and who are orderly and well disposed people. Your answer to these queries, with the *precise* terms on which they could be obtained, if to be had at all, would very much oblige Your etc.

P. S. Mrs. Washington unites with me in Compliments and best wishes to your Lady and family.[51]

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, March 3, 1793.

Gentlemen: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 5 of January and 8 of february. The former enclosing a List of the squares actually divided &ca., copies of two letters from Majr. Ellicott, and a statement of your certain funds and probable expenditures for the year 1793.

Altho' I have written to you since the receipt of your first Letter; yet, I have not 'till this moment had time to touch upon the several points therein mentioned, which seemed to require a particular answer.

As it is of importance that the squares should be divided and finished as soon as circumstances will admit, I trust that no time will be lost in obtaining a suitable and well qualified person to complete that business, if the services of Majr. Ellicott cannot be counted upon to finish it.

[51] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

I think with you that the expence of surveying and marking the lines of the District should, and I have no doubt will be defrayed by the United States; but it was not thought best to lay the matter before Congress at this Session. In justice, the expence of surveying the City should be refunded from the same source; but on this point a question would be more likely to arise than on the former.

The proprietor's claim of payment for a quantity of Land in the squares intersected by the two cross Streets &ca. is a subject on which I am not qualified to give an opinion; but I should suppose a reference to the terms of agreement with those Gentlemen would decide the matter. If it should not, the mode which you mention of leaving it to proper and impartial Judges appears to be the best.

When it was suggested to increase the dimensions of the President's House, one fifth. I had no idea that it would carry the expence of that building to anything like the sum of £77,900 Sterling, which is estimated by Mr. Hoben. And if that should be the case, I am decidedly of opinion that it would be best to take the plan on it's original scale as you mention. It was always my idea (and if I am not mistaken, Mr. Hoben coincided in the propriety and practicability of it) that the building should be so arranged that only a part of it should be erected at present; but upon such a plan as to make the part so erected an entire building, and to admit of an addition in future, as circumstances might render proper; without hurting, but rather adding to the beauty and magnificence of the whole as an original plan. I was led to this idea by considering that a house which would be very proper for a President of the United States for some years to come, might not be considered as corresponding with other circumstances at a more distant period: and therefore, to avoid the inconvenience which might

arise hereafter on that subject, I wished the building to be upon the plan I have mentioned. But I confess, that I cannot see how so great an increase of expence would arise from the small encrease of dimensions proposed; and am much mistaken indeed if it does not far exceed any ideas he let out at the time his plan was adopted. However, as I do not profess to be an accurate Judge of these matters, I cannot undertake to say that the additional expence is inconsistent.

In order that no means in our power for raising a fund commensurate with the objects in view for the ensuing season, may be left untried, I enclose you a draft on the Maryland Treasury for the third instalment of that State, agreeably to the request in your letter of the 8 of february.

In looking over your statement of the "certain funds" for the year 1793, I observe that after mentioning the sum "now in the Treasurer's hands", you say, "his advances on account, as money has been wanted, not covered by warrants" &ca., it struck me on reading this, that it might be possible that some inconvenience might arise from having money paid without a special warrant. While the present Gentleman, who acts as your Treasurer, continues in that office, there can be no apprehension of any evil arising from having money paid without being covered by a warrant; but in the event of his death, or withdrawing of the present Commissioners, might not some difficulty arise on that head? I merely suggest this for your consideration, as it struck me, without any intention of viewing the matter in a reprehensible light. I do not mean by special warrants, that the Treasurer should have a warrant for every trifling payment that may be made; but as you will probably have before you at stated periods, estimates of monies that may be wanted before the next meeting, a general warrant might be given to the Treasurer for the amot. of the sum,

accompanied with a copy of the estimate, under cover of which he could make the payments. You will, however, consider this as a mere suggestion to guard against inconveniences that might happen; but not intended by any means to dictate to you the mode of transacting your business. With great esteem etc.

P. S. I enclose a small pamphlet which was handed to me by Mr. Jefferson, who observes that it contains some ideas which may merit attention, in due time, at the Federal City.[52]

*To BURWELL BASSETT

Philadelphia, March 4, 1793.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 18th. Ulto. and its enclosure, came duly to hand. Expected, as the death of my departed relation and friend[53] was, I could not but feel sensibly, when the news of it arrived; and I take the prest. occasion to offer you my Condolence on your own late loss of yr. father and my friend for whom, when alive, I had the sincerest regard.

I wish some other competent and more active than, I can be had been placed as an Executor of the Will of my Nephew. All the aid I can give, by advice, in the management of the Estate and whatever may respect it would have been afforded without being named in it: More, cannot be done by me from that circumstance for my situation will preclude me from qualifying as an Executor and from incurring any responsibility in the management of the Estate.

The time for proving the Will, and qualifying as an Executrix, must depend upon your Sister. I expect to be at Mount Vernon about the first Week in April, and will make a point of

[52] In the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

[53] George Augustine Washington.

it, if public duties do not forbid it, to be in the County on the Court day of that month; which, I think, happens on the 15th. day of it; provided she chooses to be up then, either temporarily or permanently, and with much pleasure and satisfaction to myself will give her every aid in my power to arrange the business of the Estate. My returning thither again, will depend upon circumstances; which are not always under my controul and probably will not admit it, before July or August. With these things be pleased to bring Fanny acquainted. Offer my love to her and the Children, my respects and good wishes to Mrs. Bassett, and be assured of the esteem and regard with wch. I am &c.[54]

To DAVID STUART

Philadelphia, March 4, 1793.

Dear Sir: Since writing my Letter of yesterday, I have received the enclosed from Mr. Jefferson, which I send to you just as I recd. it. I am etc.[55]

SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS

[Philadelphia,] March 4, 1793.

Fellow-Citizens: I am again called upon by the voice of my Country to execute the functions of its Chief Magistrate. When the occasion proper for it shall arrive, I shall endeavour to express the high sense I entertain of this distinguished honor, and of the confidence which has been reposed in me by the people of United America.

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[54] From the draft in the possession of E. Francis Riggs, of Hyattsville, Md.

[55] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

The following is entered in the "Letter Book" immediately following this letter: "Note. The enclosed was the copies of two letters written by Mr. Jefferson to Mr. Ellicott; wch. he says is all that he has written to him in the years 1792 and 1793."

Previous to the execution of any official act of the President, the Constitution requires an Oath of Office. This Oath I am now about to take, and in your presence,[56] that if it shall be found during my administration of the Government I have in any instance violated willingly, or knowingly, the injunction thereof, I may (besides incurring Constitutional punishmt) be subject to the upbraidings of all who are now witnesses of the present solemn Ceremony.[57]

To REVEREND BRYAN FAIRFAX

Philadelphia, March 6, 1793.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 17 Ulto: and beg you to be assured that nothing was ever farther from my thoughts than taking amiss your not coming to the road to see me the day I passed by your House on my return to this City; as an unequivocal proof of this fact, I have only to assure you that I should not have been found there, had you come out to it; for it was not until I was opposite to your House, that I sent the Servant in, without making any halt myself, being in a hurry to meet and do some business with the Commissioners of the Federal District, at George Town, before Mrs. Washington should come up, that we might proceed some miles on our

[56] Descriptions of the ceremony are in Dunlap's *American Daily Advertiser,* March 5, and in Baker's *Washington After the Revolution* (Philadelphia: 1898).

[57] From the *Journal of the Proceedings of the President,* which is in the writing of Tobias Lear, and further records: "After the Oath was administered the President withdrew from the Senate Chamber, and returned to his own house. The President, on this occasion, went alone in his carriage to the Senate Chamber; on his return he was preceded by the Marshal of the District and the High Sheriff of the County with their deputies, who had convened at the Senate Chamber to prevent any disturbance or inconvenience that might arise from the Crowd."

On March 4 Washington, through Tobias Lear and Bishop White, subscribed $150 to the Guardians of the Poor of Philadelphia, to be distributed "to distressed persons of every denomination not participating in the benefits" of the Philadelphia Almshouse and House of Employment. Lear's note is in the archives of the Philadelphia General Hospital.

journey (which we accordingly did) that afternoon. Motives of friendship and respect was all I had in view by sending in to know how you did as I was about to leave the Country and had it not in my power, for the reason just mentioned, to call upon you myself for that purpose.

I thank you for your kind condolence on the Death of my Nephew. It is a loss I sincerely regret, but as it is the will of Heaven, whose decrees are always just and wise, I submit to it without a murmur.

Before I conclude, permit me to ask if anything is done, or likely to be done in the case of Savage. I am extremely anxious to see all matters in which I have had any agency, brought to a close, altho' the issue thereof should be unfavorable, before I quit the stage of Life.

My best respects, in which Mrs. Washington unites, are presented to Mrs. Fairfax, and your family; and, I am etc.[58]

*To ROBERT LEWIS

Philadelphia, March 7, 1793.

Dear Sir: I have received your letters of the 4th. and 9th. of Jany. in answer to mine of the 23d. of Decr.

I would not have you seek, *at least apparently,* Major Harrison; but if you should, or could conveniently fall in with him soon, and without forcing the conversation, talk to him again on the subject of his land adjoining me, and extract anything farther from him on the subject thereof that might be useful to me, I should be glad to know it. The enclosed letter to Mr. Whiting, from Mr. Chichester, the only person except Thompson Mason his Son in law (who also has poor tenanted land adjoining Harrisons should become so) that can, in my opinion

[58] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

step forward as a competetor, shews his ideas of the value of it: but altho' this may be the intrinsic worth, yet, circumstances considered, I would give more for it, if it is unincumbered with leases than what is there mentioned; or, I would give, by way of exchange, Lands in Kentuckey for it.

I expect to be at Mount Vernon before the 5th. of April, and shall, probably, take Fairfax Court (which I believe is on the 15th. of that month) on my way back to this City. Between these dates, if Mr. Harrison wd. call upon me, at Mount Vernon with his papers, the bargain, if made at all, might soon be concluded. I cannot as I expect to take the meeting of the Commissioners of the Federal District at George Town (about the first of April) well be at home before the 5th. of that month; nor will public business allow me to stay there longer than the 15th. The last being necessary on acct. of the Will of my deceased Nephew Majr. Washington; which, I expect, will be proved at that time. The first on the business of the New City. I shall come alone, merely for the purposes above menti[on]ed and to look into some matters of my own which require attention.

My best wishes attend Mrs. Lewis in which your Aunt joins me, and I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

To THOMAS LOWREY AND ABRAHAM HUNT

Philadelphia, March 7, 1793.

Sir: The President wishes to procure a Studhorse, to put to such mares as may not prove with foal by the Jacks, and to try mares with that may be brought to the Jacks; as well as to ascertain, after they have been put, whether they are satisfied or not, for it some times happens that they will refuse the Jack, when they will not a Horse. Conceiving that you may know of, or

have on opportunity of meeting with such an one as would answer his purposes, and believing in your readiness to oblige him in this instance, he has directed me to apply to you on the occasion.

He wishes him to be at least 15½ or 16 hands high, well formed, of a handsome carriage, not exceeding Eight years of age. a bay would be preferred. His pedigree will not be considered as an object of much consequence, if it should be the means of greatly enhancing the price of such an horse; but at the same time the President would prefer one of some blood, if he cou'd be obtained upon terms nearly equal to one destitute of that quality, but equal in other respects.

From the above description you will see that the President is not disposed to give an extraordinary price for the Horse he wants; and relying upon your knowledge of and judgment in those animals, he thinks it unnecessary to be more particular in the description.

If such an Horse can be obtained for the President he must be here by the 22d. or 23d. of this month, as the President intends going to Mount Vernon about that time, and will have him taken down there at the same time. You will therefore be so good as to let the President know as soon as possible, if you can get such an Horse as is mentioned, with his price and a description of him, and the President will inform you immediately whether he shall be purchased or not. I am etc.[59]

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

United States, March 8, 1793.

Sir: Being desirous of having a full and accurate knowledge of such things as are required to be done by or through the Pres-

[59] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

ident of the United States, by the laws passed during the late Session of Congress, and which are deposited among the Rolls in your Office; I have to request, that the said laws may be examined for this purpose, and that you will furnish me with extracts of such parts or clauses of them as relate to, or require the immediate or special agency of the President of the United States.[60]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, March 9, 1793.

Dear Sir: The enclosed from Messrs. Johnson and Carroll have this instant come to hand. Along with them you will receive the letter (this day read) from Doctr. Stuart, that the sentiments of all three of the Commrs. may appear in one view.

I pray you, before Mr. Madison leaves town, to lay all three before him and the Attorney Genl.; and give me a written Memo. of the measures which you, and they, shall think most advisable for me to pursue, provisionally, or otherwise, in this business.

You will all recollect the points that were touched upon to day; I shall not, therefore, repeat them.

I am always Yours etc.[61]

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

United States, March 9, 1793.

Sir: Expecting that my private Affairs will call me to Virginia on or before the 25th of this month, I have to request that you will lay before me, previous to that time, such matters

[60] In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[61] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. It is indorsed by Jefferson: "recd. Mar. 9. 93. what sacrifice to retain Johnson? sum in gross and what? if he goes, any sacrifice to retain other Commrs in town? Commrs. in town, sum in gross?"

within your department as may require my attention or agency before I set out; as well as those which might be necessary for me to know or act upon during the time of my absence from the Seat of Government (which will be about four weeks) so far as such things may come to your knowledge before my departure.[62]

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Sunday, March 10, 1793.

Sir: If, upon a due consideration of the letter from the Secretary of the N. W. Territory[63] to Govr. St. Clair, which you sent to me yesterday, and is herewith returned, you shall be of opinion that my official interference is necessary on the subject of that letter, I must request that you will report to me wherein such interference may be necessary, as well as the authority under which the President may exercise it.

But I confess to you, that the long absence of the Governor, as well as of some of the Judges, from the Territory, appears to me, if not the cause of producing the irregularities complained of by the Secretary, to be a great means of encouraging a spirit of riot and disorder, by relaxing the energy of the laws. This, therefore, is an additional reason for me to wish that the Governor may be pressed to repair to the Territory without delay. And unless he does, I shall be under the disagreeable necessity of issuing a peremptory Order for that purpose. I wish to be informed whether Judge Turner has set out for the Territory.

I think it would be best for you to consult with the Atty. Genl. to determine whether transcripts of the treaties made with the Indians under the State Governmt. of N. York should be sent for or not.[62]

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[62] In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[63] Winthrop Sargent.

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, March 10, 1793.

Mr. Whiting: I was very sorry to find by a letter which I received from Doctr. Craik yesterday, that your old complaint had returned upon you again. I sincerely wish that it may go off easily, and that you may have no more returns. One means of preventing which, is to take care of yourself. That is, to attempt no more than the Doctor thinks you can accomplish without injury to your health; for you may be perfectly assured, that I not only do not desire you to attempt more than you can execute with ease and safety, but that it is my particular and earnest request that you would not; both on your own account and mine. A little nursing, with gentle exercise, may restore you to a good state of health. To attempt more may destroy it altogether, and place my business in a very unfavorable situation.

By this time you must have seen enough into Mr. Butlers character to determine whether, or not, he possesses skill, industry and integrity. If your impressions of him are favorable; throw a good deal of your own duties upon him; and in case they are not, save yourself notwithstanding, by making the Overseers come to you for, instead of your going to them with, orders respecting the Farms. Although you may not be able to see to the execution of matters, knowing what ought to be done, you can direct the Overseers as well as if you were actually on the Farm, and this I should greatly prefer to your running any hazard by a premature exertion.

Having nothing particular to write upon, I shall only observe that on the 7th. instant I put on board Captn. Ellwood for Alexandria, addressed to the care of Mr. Porter of that place 13 quarts of Honey locust seeds; of which I pray you to cause the best use to be made this Spring.

If at any time you should be too much indisposed to take the weekly reports, and on the usual day to transmit them, let Mr. Butler do it; as I am disappointed always when they do not come to hand. I wish you the perfect restoration of your health and am Your well wisher and friend.[64]

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

United States, March 11, 1793.

Sir: I have to request that you will examine with a careful attention, all the Laws passed during the last Session of Congress, and select therefrom such parts or clauses as require the *special* agency of the President to carry them into effect, and report the same to me; together with Department thro' or by which such things are to be executed.[64]

To ROBERT POLLARD

Philadelphia, March 11, 1793.

Sir: The President of the United States requests that you will transmit to him a statement of his Accot. with the James river Company, from it's first institution, in order that he may be fully acquainted with the payments which have been made on his account, as well as with what may be due from him.

The President's long absence from home, and the little attention that his public duties have permitted him to pay to his private Affairs, have prevented him from keeping so regular a statement of his Account with the Company as he could wish, and this is the cause of giving you this trouble. I have the honor etc.[65]

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[64] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[65] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

*To FRANCES BASSETT WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, March 11, 1793.

My dear Fanny: On the other side, you will find the copy of a letter written this day week to your Brother Burwell. Since which, your letter of the 26th. of February to your Aunt, informing her that you were about to leave Eltham, has been received; and is the cause as you might not be in the way of knowing the contents of my letter to your Brother of my addressing a copy of it to you; and requesting you would by a line to be lodged in the Post office in Alexandria *'till called for,* inform me whether you will be at Mount Vernon before Fairfax Court in April, or not; because, although I would make a point of it to remain in the County 'till that time if I was sure of your being up before it; yet, it might not be convenient for me to stay there so long, if the case should be otherwise. For this reason I request to be informed of your determination respecting this matter. With sincere and affectionate regard for you, and the Children, I am etc.

PS. If this letter should find you at Studley. Pray present your Aunts and my Compts. to Mr. and Mrs. Lyons. [H.L.]

To ALBERT GALLATIN

Philadelphia, March 11, 1793.

Sir: On Saturday last the President receiv'd a Letter which was enclosed in one to you from Mr. Thos. Bowen; in which Mr. Bowen requests to be informed by the President, of the person who administered on the Estate of a Mr. George Harrison who formerly lived near Alexandria.

In reply to Mr. Bowen's enquiry, the President has directed me to give you the following information, (which is all he

possesses on the subject) in order that it may be communicated to Mr. Bowen. The President can give very little satisfactory information respecting the enquiry. The only person of the name of George Harrison he ever heard of in the part of the Country mentioned by Mr. Bowen, has been dead little short of Fifty years. he left a widow, but no children, and the reversion of the Land on which he lived to a Nephew of his by the name of John West, (after the Death of his wife) from whom the President bought it about twenty years ago. The widow married a person of the name of Posey; but whether she had been appointed an executrix of the will of Harrison, or administered on the Estate, or who else acted in either of these characters, the President is unable to say, it being before his time, and having had no concern in his affairs, or knowledge of them further than buying the Land as above mentioned.

Enclosed is your Letter from Mrs. Bowen, which covered the President's. I have the honor etc.[66]

To ABRAHAM HUNT

Philadelphia, March 13, 1793.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of yesterday, with it's enclosures, in reply to mine of the 7 Instant.

Of the several Horses which you mention, the Colt belonging to Mr. Baker seems to strike the President as most likely to answer his purposes; but before he can determine respecting him, the President wishes to know whether he was three years old *last* Spring, or is *but three* now. If the former there can be no great prospect of his ever being much higher than he now is, altho' he will undoubtedly spread and become stouter, if the latter, the President thinks he would bid fair to be a large

[66] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

Horse, he likewise wishes to be informed whether he has been broken to the saddle, and performed service, or not. The President will be much obliged to you for information on these points as soon as you can conveniently give it.

With respect to Mr. Hamilton's horse, the President thinks his head might be an objection to him, (altho' in other respects answering very well) as he considers a small well-formed head and neck as constituting essential parts in the beauty of a Horse. But your view of him, you say, was slight, perhaps at a closer one, he might appear to greater advantage; and the President believes your judgment good.

The price of Mr. Phillips' horse is so much beyond what the President thinks of giving, as to put him out of the question.

For your prompt attention to the President's request, and your trouble in this business, he begs you to accept his thanks. I am etc.[67]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, March 13, 1793.

Dear Sir: The returned draught of a letter to Mr. Gouvr. Morris accords with my sentiments. Taking it for granted, that the words "We suppose this will rather overpay the instalments and interest due on the loans of 18. 6 and 10 Millions," mean all that could be demanded by the French Government to the close of last year. This being the idea I have entertained of the payments, and engagements to pay.

If it has not been done in a former letter, it would be agreeable to me, that Mr. Morris should be instructed to neglect no favorable opportunity of expressing *informally* the sentiments and wishes of this Country respecting the M. de la Fayette.

[67] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

And I pray you to commit to paper, in answer to the enclosed letter from Madame de la Fayette to me, all the consolation I can with propriety give her consistent with my public character and the National policy; circumstanced as things are. My last, and *only* letter to her is herewith sent, that you may see what has been written heretofore. I am etc.[68]

To WILLIAM RAWLE[69]

March 13, 1793.

Whereas it appears to me, from the representation of several respectable persons, and from sundry affidavits, that William Kerr and Alexander Beer, who were lately indicted in the Circuit Court of the United States, holden in the Town of York, in the State of Pennsylvania, for a riot, were innocent of the offence, with which they stand charged; and they may be exposed to great trouble and expence in defending themselves unless the Indictment be discontinued: I have therefore thought fit to instruct, and I do hereby instruct you forth with to enter a Nolle prose qui on the indictment aforesaid: and for so doing let this be filed as your warrant.[70]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES WILKINSON[71]

Philadelphia, March 14, 1793.

Sir: I had the pleasure to receive your polite Letter of the 1st. of November by the hands of Captn. Prior,[72] and shortly after, the two Kegs of Fish therein mentioned came safe to hand. They were truly a novelty here, and if the western waters

[68] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[69] United States attorney for the Pennsylvania district.
[70] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[71] Of the United States Army.
[72] Capt. Abner Prior, of the First Sub-Legion, United States Army.

abound with such fine fish as these appear to be, it may be considered as no small addition to the many favors which nature has lavished upon that desirable Country.

This token of regard and attention is entitled to, and must receive the best thanks and acknowledgments of Sir, Your etc.[73]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM MOULTRIE

Philadelphia, March 15, 1793.

Dear Sir: I was exceedingly pleased to learn from your Letter of the 15 ulto., that a spirit of improvement in military knowledge was rapidly taking place among the militia of your State; and I should be happy to give a mark of my approbation of so laudable an emulation, by complying with your Excellency's request, if it could be done with propriety. but applications of a similar nature having been heretofore made and refused; and it being thought proper to avoid complying with them, from a persuasion of the necessity of keeping the artillery of the United States as much together as circumstances would permit, and from knowing that if the request was granted in one instance, it could not be denied in any. I am therefore under the necessity of declining to comply with the wish of your Excellency for the loan of some brass field peices from the Arsenal of the Ud.

[73] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On March 14 Lear wrote to the Secretary of War that "the President approves the idea of allowing the sum of 50 dolls. Annually for the support of a School among the Indians at Brother town provided it shd. appear from the representation of the Agent for Indian Affairs in that quarter, that such an establishmt. wd. conduce to the general object of the U. S: the information and civilization of the Indians." Lear's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

On this same day (March 14) Lear also wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury, that the President has no doubt of the intention of Hezekiah and George D. Usher "to defraud the Revenue; but if it shall appear to the Secretary, from his information on the subject, that the said Ushers have suffered by the loss of their goods, and expences attending the suit, enough to answer the intention of the Law, the President leaves it to his judgment, to remit the penalty in such way as, upon consulting the Attorney General of the Ud. States, shall appear best." Lear's letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

States, for the use of the Volunteer companies of Artillery in Charleston; and I am persuaded you will see that my conduct in this respect is unavoidably the result of my duty to the public. I am etc.[74]

*To SIR JOHN SINCLAIR

Philadelphia, March 15, 1793.

Sir: I hope you will have the goodness to excuse the delay which has taken place in transmitting Answers to your queries respecting the sheep of this Country agreeably to the promise I made you in a letter which I had the honor of writing to you the 20th. of October last. The Session of Congress which commenced the 5 of Novr. and did not close until the 3d. of this month, is offered as the principal cause of the delay.

The Paper herewith enclosed is from one of the most intelligent Gentlemen farmers of this State (Pennsylvania) living not more than five miles from the City. His details respecting the Sheep of this State will apply without *much* variation to those of other States in the Union. In the extremes, however, of which they are, I think, more indifferent, and in Virginia and Maryland best of all; both for wool and mutton; and easiest raised on acct. of the temperature of the climate.

On my own farms, near the head of the tide water of Potomac (which River divides the States of Virga. and Maryland) I keep more sheep than is usual in this Country (from Six hundred to a thousand head) and whilst I resided thereon and could attend to the management of them myself their fleeces averaged full 5 lbs.; and the Mutton from 18 to 22 lbs. a quarter. But this was the effect of care, and the choice of good Rams from the English breed wch. we now and then get over notwithstanding your

[74] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

prohibitary Laws, or customs. Mr. Arthur Young with whom I have been in the habit of Corrisponding for 8 or 10 years on Agricultural subjects and matters relative thereto requested a lock of Wool from my sheep which was accordingly sent in an entire fleece of average weight and quality; on which I received the Observations which are contained in the enclosed extract from his letter.[75]

[In looking over the Pamphlet which you] were so obliging as to [send me, entitled "an Analysis of the political State of Scotland", which is a specimen of the useful information to be expected from your researches, I cannot but express myself highly pleased with the undertaking, and give my best wishes for its success: for I am fully persuaded, that when enlightened men will take the trouble to examine so minutely into the state of society as your enquiries seem to go, it must result in greatly ameliorating the condition of the people, promoting the interest of civil society, and the happiness of Mankind at large. These are objects truly worthy the attention of a great mind, and every friend to the human race must readily lend his aid towards their accomplishment.][76]

To MARQUISE DE LAFAYETTE

Philadelphia, March 16, 1793.

Dear Madam: I addressed a few lines to you on the 31st of January, in a state of entire uncertainty in what country or condition they might find you; as we had been sometimes told you were in England, sometimes in Holland, and at sometimes in France. Your letter of Octob: 8, 1792, first relieved me from doubt, and gave me a hope that, being in France, and on your

[75] Probably Young's letter of Jan. 25, 1791, which is in the *Washington Papers*.
[76] The parts in brackets are in the writing of Tobias Lear.

own Estate, you are not as destitute as I had feared, of the resources which that could furnish. But I have still to sympathize with you on the deprivation of the dearest of all your resources of happiness, in comparison with which, others vanish. I do it in all sincerity of my friendship for him, and with ardent desires for his relief; in which sentiment I know that my fellow-citizens participate.

The measures which you were pleased to intimate in your letter, are perhaps not exactly those, which I could pursue; perhaps, indeed not the most likely, under actual circumstances to obtain our object. but be assured, that I am not inattentive to his condition, nor contenting myself with inactive wishes for his liberation. My affection to his nation and to himself are unabated, and notwithstanding the line of separation which has been unfortunately drawn between them I am confident that both have been led on by a pure love of liberty, and a desire to secure public happiness; and I shall deem that among the most consoling moments of my life which shall see them reunited in the end, as they were in the beginning, of their virtuous enterprise. Accept I pray you the same lively sentiments of interest and attachment to yourself and your dear children, from Dr. Madm. Your most obt. and devoted servt.[77]

To JAMES KEITH

Philadelphia, March 17, 1793.

Dear Sir: I have duly received your Letter of the 7 Instant, respecting the issueing Executions against the Trustees of Semple, provided they should not procure an Injunction for staying them before the first of April; in reply to which I have only

[77] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

to observe, that I am so extremely anxious to have the Affairs relative to Colo. Colville's Estate settled, and so pressing are the claims against it, that it is my wish and desire to have every proper step be taken that can expedite the closing of the business. Upon receiving payment from the Trustees of Semple (if Execution should not be stayed by an Injunction) you will pay the fees due to the Lawyers, and reserve for yourself such compensation for your agency in the business as was fixed upon by the Gentlemen to whom the matter was referred by the Court, if this was done, if not, then such as you and they may think adequate: after which you will pay the residue (if it should not amount to more than is due on that claim) to Colo. Hooe, in discharge of Mr. Bennett's account against the Estate, first taking care to have the account strictly examined, and any errors (of which you say there are some respecting Interest) rectifyed. Below is the sums which have been paid to me, or my order, on account of the Bond; with the dates of such payments, for your information and government in the settlement of this matter. I am etc.

		Sterling
1789		
27 April	By an Order on Mr. Jas. Dunlap, to pay to Colo. Hooe on Accot. of Mr. Bennett's claim £600-Sterling	£600. 0. 0
5 July	By Do on Do to pay to Do £100 Sterlg. at 133 1/3	100. 0. 0
1790		
10 Decr.	Recd. from Mr. Dunlap, by a Bill drawn on Andw. Clow & Co. in Philada	£176. 0. 0
15 —	Recd. from Do. on Accot. of Colonel Colville's Estate	424.
		£1300. 0. 0[78]

[78] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

*To FRANCES BASSETT WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, March 17, 1793.

My dear Fanny: I have duly received your letter, dated Hanover March 5th., and was happy to hear that yourself and the Children were well. It is not by any means a wish of mine that, you should come to Mount Vernon next month on account of my short visit to that place. It was merely on your own account, and that of the Estate, that I suggested the measure; more indeed for consideration than by way of advice; for either of your brothers, or Mr. Jno. Dandridge can speak to the latter with more propriety than I am able to do; as they know in what time, and in what manner the Will of our departed friend ought to be proved and the execution of the trust entered upon.

My last to you, enclosing the copy of a letter which I had previously written to your brother Burwell, would have convey [*sic*] to you fully, my ideas on this subject; and to that communication I now beg leave to refer you.

The offer of a residence at Mount Vernon, was made to you with my whole heart; but it is with you to consider nevertheless whether any other plan will comport better with the views which my Nephew had, or with such as you may have entertained for you own ease, for the education of your Children; or for the interest of the Estate. and your decision thereon will be perfectly agreeable to me; for I can assure you with much truth I have no wish in the case beyond that of seeing you settled to your intire satisfaction. The means for doing which either in Alexandria or elsewhere you have no doubt considered and calculated; for with the best œconomy I conceive it must be expensive to purchase furniture and keep a house.

The Carriage which I sent to Mount Vernon for your use, I never intended to reclaim; and therefore now making you a more formal present of it, it may be sent for whenever it suits your convenience, and be considered as your own. And I shall, when I see you, request that Fayette may be given up to me; either at that time, or as soon after as he is old enough to go to shool [*sic*]; This will relieve you of that portion of attention which his education would otherwise call for.

It is to be feared that your Overseer in Fairfax is neither the best of that descriptn., nor the honestest of men. A month, or more ago, Mr. Whiting informed me that this said Overseer had one, if not two horses of his own on the Plantation. (fed no doubt, whatever his declarations to the contrary might be at your expence). I immediately directed Mr. Whiting to go to him and in my name to order the horse, or Horses, (if more than one) to be sent away instantly; unless he could show a *written* permission for their being kept on the place; and to inform him moreover that if they were to be found on it when I came home I would not only send the horses off, but himself along with them. Since then, some suspicions have also been entertained of his not dealing fairly by the wheat, which, was under his care for market. Such is the villainy of these sort of people when they have it in their power, as they conceive, to cheat with impunity. What has been done in either of these cases I remain unadvised; as poor Whiting, by a letter which I received from Doctr. Craik, dated the 6th. inst. was then confined to his bed by a more violent return of his old disorder (Spitting blood) than ever. Since that date I have heard nothing from thence, which is presumptive evidence that he is not able to write himself; and of this there is the evidence also of the Doctrs. letter, pronouncing his case critical

and dangerous. The effect of these to be avoided by extreme care only.

From what Mr. Bassett said to Mr. Whiting, respecting the materials for the building which had been begun at your place, I directed him to have them put away securely, and to let your Carpenters work along with mine; keeping an account of the time, that I might allow you the usual hire. There they may remain, unless you have other employment for them; as I have work on hand that requires despatch, and I would, to facilitate the execution thereof hire others if I do not retain these.

Your Aunt joins me in every affectionate regard for you and the Childn., and in best wishes for the friends among whom you are. At all times, and under all circumstances I shall always remain Yr. sincere frd.[79]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

United States, March 20, 1793.

Sir: It appears from your Report to me of the 18 instant, and the Statements[80] accompanying it, that it will be proper to take measures for securing a Loan of Eight hundred thousand Dollars, as authorised by the Act,[81] entitled "an Act making appropriations for the support of Government for the year 1793." I have therefore to request that you will cause such a power to be prepared for my signature as will be necessary for your authorization to effect said Loan in the time and manner stated in your Report.[82]

[79] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

[80] The financial statements, together with Hamilton's letter of March 18, are entered in the "Letter Book" immediately preceding this letter.

[81] The authorization was signed by Washington, March 21. A copy is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[82] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

United States, March 20, 1793.

Sir: I have to request that it may be given in charge to the director of the mint, to take measures for collecting samples of foreign coins issued in the Year 1792, of the species which usually circulate within the United States, to examine by assays at the mint whether the same are conformable to the respective standards required, and to report the result, that the same may be made known by proclamation, agreeably to the Act entitled, "An Act regulating foreign Coins, and for other purposes."[83]

To ARTHUR YOUNG

Philadelphia, March 20, 1793.

Sir: Having had occasion in some late communications to you, to speak of the District which has been decided on (under a Law of Congress) for the permanent Seat of the Government of the United States; I do myself the pleasure of sending you a plan of the intended City, which is now laying out in the centre thereof.

It will serve to shew you, and such as may have the curiosity to look at it, that whatever our present condition is, we have vanity enough to look forward to a better. With great esteem etc.[84]

To THE SECRETARIES OF STATE, TREASURY, WAR, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

(Circular)

United States, March 21, 1793.

Gentlemen: The Treaty which is agreed to be held on or about the first of June next at the Lower Sandusky of Lake Erie, being

[83] In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[84] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

of great moment to the interests and peace of this Country; and likely to be attended with difficulties arising from circumstances (not unknown to you) of a peculiar and embarrassing nature; it is indispensably necessary that *our* rights under the Treaties which have been entered into with the Six Nations, the several tribes of Indians now in hostility with us, and the claims of others, should be carefully investigated and well ascertained, that the Commissioners who are appointed to hold it may be well informed and clearly instructed on all the points that are likely to be discussed: thereby knowing what they are to insist upon (with or without compensation, and the amount of the Compensation, if any), and what, for the sake of peace, they may yield.

You are not to learn from me, the different views which our Citizens entertain of the War we are engaged in with the Indians, and how much these different opinions add to the delicacy and embarrassments alluded to above; nor the criticisms which, more than probable, will be made on the subject, if the proposed Treaty should be unsuccessful.

Induced by these motives, and desirous that time may be allowed for a full and deliberate consideration of the subject before the departure of the Commissioners, it is my desire that you will, on the 25th of this month, meet together at the War Office (or at such other time and place as you may agree upon) where the principal documents are, with whatever papers you may respectively be possessed of on the subject, and such others as I shall cause to be laid before you, and then and there decide on all the points which you shall conceive necessary for the information and instruction of the Commissioners. And having drawn them into form, to revise the same and have them ready, in a finished state, for my perusal and consideration when I return; together with a digest of such references as shall be adjudged necessary for the Commissioners to take with them.

And, as it has been suggested to me, that the Society of Quakers are desireous of sending a deputation from their Body, to be present at the aforesaid Treaty (which, if done with pure motives, and a disposition accordant with the sentiments entertained by Government respecting boundary, may be a mean of facilitating the good work of peace) you will consider how far, if they are approved Characters, they ought to be recognized in the Instructions to the Commissioners; and how proper it may be for them to participate therein or be made acquainted therewith.[85]

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

United States, March 22, 1793.

Sir: I send you a Letter of the 26 ulto. from William Bingham Esquire to the Secretary of the Treasury, together with the documents accompanying it. I desire your opinion on the following points arising upon these papers.

I. Whether the proceedings heretofore by the United States in Congress assembled have transferred from Mr. Bingham to the public, the consequences of the transaction in question, so as to make the suit now depending properly an Affair of the Government.

II. Whether the Executive is competent to the requisite measures of defense and security against any unfounded pretensions of the claimants, Plaintiffs or Prosecutors, or whether further special provision by law is necessary.

III. If the Executive be so competent; what is the proper course, under the existing circumstances to be pursued.[86]

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[85] In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. According to the *Journal of the Proceedings of the President,* Mar. 12, 1793, the President had already informed Knox "that it would be well at all events to have the sd. [John] Hackewelder to attend on Acct. of his knowledge of the language and Customs of the Indians, altho he declines acting as an Interpreter."

[86] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

To DAVID HUMPHREYS[87]

Philadelphia, March 23, 1793.

My dear Sir: Closely engaged in the business incident to my Office during the Session of Congress, and as closely employed since in making arrangements for carrying into effect the laws then passed, and in discharging other public duties, I have not 'till this moment found myself enough at leisure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d. of July; and being now on the eve of setting out for Mount Vernon, I shall be able to do but little more than barely acknowledge the receipt of it, and of your favors of the 23d. of January and the 8 of february, both of which have reached my hands within these few days.

Even if I had time, it might not be proper for me to reply particularly to the several parts of your letters, especially to that of the 23d. July. I shall therefore content myself at present, my dear Sir, with making a few general observations on the existing state of things, and rely upon your being assured that, however concise my letter may be, it does not become so from any diminution of my regard for you.

If it can be esteemed a happiness to live in an age productive of great and interesting events, we of the present age are very highly favored. The rapidity of national revolutions appear no less astonishing, than their magnitude. In what they will terminate, is known only to the great ruler of events; and confiding in his wisdom and goodness, we may safely trust the issue to him, without perplexing ourselves to seek for that, which is beyond human ken; only taking care to perform the parts assigned us, in a way that reason and our own consciences approve of.

[87] United States Minister to Portugal.

All our late accounts from Europe hold up the expectation of a general war in that quarter. For the sake of humanity I hope such an event will not take place; but, if it shou'd, I trust that we shall have too just a sense of our own interest to originate any cause, that may involve us in it; and I ardently wish we may not be forced into it by the conduct of other Nations. If we are permitted to improve without interruption, the great advantages which nature and circumstances have placed within our reach, many years will not revolve before we may be ranked not only among the most respectable, but among the happiest people on this Globe. Our advances to these points are more rapid than the most sanguine among us ever predicted. A spirit of improvement displays itself in every quarter, and principally in objects of the greatest public utility, such as opening the inland navigation, which is extensive and various beyond conception; improving the old roads and making new ones; building bridges and houses, and in short pursuing those things which seem eminently calculated to promote the advantage and accommodation of the people at large. Besides these, the enterprises of individuals shew at once what are the happy effects of personal exertions in a Country, where equal Laws and equal Rights prevail.

For myself, you see me again entering upon the arduous duties of an important Office to which the unanimous voice of my Country has once more called me. To you, who know my love of retirement and domestic life, it is unnecessary to say that, in accepting this re-appointment, I relinquish those personal enjoyments to which I am peculiarly attached. The motives which induced my acceptance are the same which have ever ruled my decision when the public desire (or, as my countrymen are pleased to denominate it, *good*) was placed in the scale against my personal enjoyment or private interest.

The latter I have ever considered as subservient to the former; and perhaps in no instance of my life have I been more sensible of the sacrifice than in the present; for at my age the love of retirement grows every day more and more powerful, and the death of my nephew, the poor Major, will, I apprehend, cause my private concerns to suffer very much. This melancholy event took place on the 5th of last month at Colo. Bassett's, where he had gone, hoping to benefit from a change of air and situation. Altho' it had been long expected: and indeed, to me, of late appear'd inevitable; yet I have felt it very keenly.

You will receive from Mr. Jefferson every official communication necessary for your conduct, together with Laws, public papers, &ca. He will also inform you that the steps which you took in consequence of Mr. Barclay's death, met my entire approbation.[88]

I set out with intimating that my Letter would be very short; but upon looking back I find it can hardly be said to have that fault, and, lest it should partake of another at least as bad, I shall close it with assuring you that you have the best wishes, for your health and happiness, of Your sincere friend etc.[89]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, March 24, 1793.

Mr. Whiting: I have received your letters of the 18th. and 20th. instant, and am very glad to find by them that you have got about again. Be careful not to do any thing that may occasion your disorder to return. It is not my wish that exertions in

[88] Thomas Barclay, the American consul in Morocco, had died suddenly. Humphreys had taken charge of his public business.

[89] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

my business should bring on a relapse. Pursue the Doctors advice with respect to the quantum of exercise proper for you; and avoid night rides, which are very pernicious, even to a man in health.

I shall leave this on Wednesday next, so as to be at Georgetown on the Monday following (the first of April); and if not detained there on business, shall be at Mount Vernon the day after. I shall take Osborne and the two Postilions with me; and eight horses; the last of which you will provide for in the best manner you can under the want of Oats. One bed will be sufficient for the two Postilions; but they will make use of two, if two are in the room; for which reason let one of them be taken away and deposited in the Garret of the Great-House.

The Maltese Jack should be advertised for Covering. On the same terms as last year, the other, if his performances last year are approved, I shall keep for my own Mares. The Advertisements ought, by good right, to be in the Baltimore, Annapolis, Alexandria, Fredericksburgh and Winchester Gazettes. If I should, on my way down, meet with a stud horse that I think would answer the purpose you want, I will buy him. In that case he ought to be advertised for Covering also, and not to remain a dead charge upon me.

If you sow Clover Seed on no other field than No. 7 at Dogue run, it was unnecessary, and wrong to run me to the expence of purchasing as much as I did: As it will grow worse, if not get spoiled, before another season. It is high time that the Spg. sowing was over.

You say Mrs. Washington's Carpenters have been at Work with Green since the 11th. of the Month, but in his report of the 17th. he takes no notice at all of them. And Mr. Butlers Plantation reports are such as I can neither make head or tale of. In some, no acct. at all is given of the Stock; and in none is there

any mention of the increase, or decrease. I return them, wishing, if they can be made more intelligable and correct, that it may be done: for my reason for calling for these reports is not for the mere curiosity, or gratification of the moment; but that I may see into, and be informed of the State of things at any past period, by having recourse to them hereafter; as they are all preserved.

I wish you would employ a few hands in opening the Visto, before I reach home; that I may be able to form an opinion thereof, immediately upon my arrival. I would not have the Gate Posts put in, until the ground is in perfect order for it. Nothing I presume is done towards removing the Houses at Union Farm, as nothing is said about them.

As I shall be at home so soon I shall add nothing more in this letter than my best wishes for the perfect restoration of your health, and that I am etc.

To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

(Private)

Philadelphia, March 25, 1793.

My Dear Sir: It was not 'till the middle of February that I had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 23d. of October. If you, who are at the fountain head of those great and important transactions which have lately engrossed the attention of Europe and America, cannot pretend to say what will be their event, surely we, in this distant quarter, should be presumptuous indeed in venturing to predict it. and unwise should we be in the extreme to involve ourselves in the contests of European Nations, where our weight could be but small; tho' the loss to ourselves would be certain. I can however with truth aver that

this Country is not guided by such narrow and mistaken policy as will lead it to wish the destruction of any nation, under an idea that our importance will be encreased in proportion as that of others is lessened. We should rejoice to see every nation enjoying all the advantages that nature and it's circumstances would admit, consistent with civil liberty, and the rights of other nations. Upon this ground the prosperity of this Country would unfold itself every day, and every day would it be growing in political importance.

Mr. Jefferson will communicate to you such official information as we have to give, and will transmit the Laws, public papers &c.

I have thought it best, My Dr. Sir, not to let slip this opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your Letter, lest no other should occur to me very soon, as I am called to Mount Vernon by the death of my Nephew, Major Washington, and am on the point of setting out for that place tomorrow. I need not tell you that this is of course a very busy moment with me, it will therefore account for the conciseness of this letter by which however you must not measure my regard.

You see me again entering upon the arduous duties of an important office I do it so contrary to my intention, that it would require more time than I have prescribed to myself, to assign the reasons and therefore I shall leave them for your own suggestion, aided by the publications which you will find in the Gazettes. I am etc.[90]

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[90] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On March 25 Washington wrote the following certificate for Tobias Lear's accounts: "I do hereby certify that I have examined the Accounts which have been kept by Mr. Tobias Lear, on my behalf, from the commencement of my Administration of the Government of the United States down to the 31st. day of December One thousand seven hundred and ninety two, as will appear by the Journal and Ledger which contain them, and that I am perfectly well satisfied with the clearness and justness of them." This certificate is in the Huntington Library; a duplicate is in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

United States, March 27, 1793.

Sir: In consequence of your Letter to me of the 25 inst: stating the opinion of the Secry. of State, the Secry. of the Treasury and yourself, on the subject of a Suit instituted against Mr. Bingham; and suggesting the propriety of giving instructions to the Attorney for the United States in the Massachusetts District to appear in behalf of Mr. Bingham, provided that Mr. Bingham will execute certain engagements as mentioned in your letter aforesaid, I do hereby direct you to take such steps in this Affair as may be proper, and for the interest of the United States to pursue.[91]

*To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mount Vernon, April 3, 1793.

Gentlemen: On my way to, and at the landing of George Town yesterday,[92] I had a good deal of conversation with Major Ellicott, who says, if you will give him an opportunity, he will make it appear to *your satisfaction* that there are not those errors in his work that have been reported; and that the work reported to have been done, and *not actually executed* he is persuaded he can expln. to your entire satisfaction if you will afford him a candid and patient hearing as above. This I assured him you would do, as truth was the object you were in pursuit of.

I took this occasion to repeat to him *again* in stronger terms than ever that I would not interfere between the Commis-

[91] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[92] The President left Philadelphia for Mount Vernon on Wednesday, March 27. He was in Baltimore, March 30, and Georgetown and Mount Vernon, April 2.

sioners and the characters subordinate to them; and that it was to *them,* and them *only,* he was accountable for his conduct; because it was with them, and them only I could or would communicate in future. He acknowledged the propriety thereof, but observed at the sametime, that he could not be responsible for any that he did not himself employ; adding that the whole of this uneasiness arises from one Dermot[93] (I think he called him) whom he *did not employ.*

I informed him moreover, in unequivocal language, that his conduct, as far as it had appeared to me from the corrispondence between you and him, was not respectful to you, when it ought to have been so and was always expected by the Employer from the employed. He assured me he meant no disrespect; and declared in the most solemn terms, that he had endeavored to the utmost of his abilities to execute the work well, and with all the dispatch the accuracy of it would admit adding, as his firm belief, that no work of the same kind and magnitude was ever performed with so few errors. he seemed as far as I could discover, to be inclined, not only to stay until the first of May, but 'till the whole plan was compleated. I advised him to go to you, and in a proper manner, to make the above communications, and propose something agreeably thereto. If he does, I submit, without giving an opinion, or wishing to interfere in your business, whether an accommodation under all circumstances is not to be preferred to an open breach; and a newspaper justification which will inevitably follow.

I ought also to mention (but this I do for *your* information, *only*) that I also had a conversation with Mr. Stoddart after any I had with either of you Gentlemen on this Subject, in which he expressed an earnest desire that means could be

[93] James Read McDermott. He had been appointed by David Stuart.

devised to prevent the dismission of Mr. Ellicot as he thot. the event, at this time, would be attended with disagreeable consequences; especially as Mr. Ellicot wd. be able he thought to prove the chargs unfd. My reply was that I would support the Commissioners. that it was painful to me, to see such interferences of the Proprietors who, in my opinion, had no more to do with the conduct of them (farther than to receive their dues according to contract) than a Citizen of the State of New Hampshire or Georgia; and moreover, that they appeared to me to be acting the parts of suicides to their own interests, as far as their conduct could effect it. To all wch. he acquiesced.

I thought it but right to make the foregoing communication, that you might give it the consideration it deserved, and to add, that you may be assured, I am etc.[94]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, April 5, 1793.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 1st. instant came to my hands yesterday. I regret the indisposition of General Knox; but hope, as there is yet time for consideration of those matters I referred to the heads of the departments, no inconvenience will result from the delay occasioned thereby unless it shd. continue much longer. At George Town I met Mr. Randolph; and by a letter just recd. from Mr. Lear, I am informed that General Lincoln was expected to be in Philadelphia about the middle of this Week.

I am so much surprized, and mortified at the Conduct of Judge Turner, that if he should be in Philadelphia at the receipt of this letter, and not the best evidence of his proceeding

[94]From *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

to the No Western Territory immediately It is my desire that you will, in my name express to him, as far as my powers will authorise you to do, that I can no longer submit to such abuses of public trust without instituting (if I have powers to set it on foot) an enquiry into his conduct. The same with respect to the Governor of that territory. Such remissness in these Gentlemen not only reflects upon the common rules of propriety but must implicate me in the shamefulness of their conduct, in suffering it.

I *hope* the acct. brought by the Captn. from Lisbon had no better foundation than that suggested in your letter; for I shd. be sorry to receive a confirmation of it. It was prudent, however, to guard against an event which might have proved unfortunate in case of the Capture of the Packet.

With esteem I am etc.[95]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, April 5, 1793.

Sir: In addition to the several matters contained in my circular Letter to you before I left Philada. which you were desired to take into consideration, I now submit to you (and to the other Gentlemen to whom the abovementioned letter was directed, and who you will now also consult) a request of the Society of Quakers to be permitted to make presents to the Indians at the proposed Treaty at Sandusky.

You will determine among yourselves as to the propriety of granting this request *at all,* and to what amount, [and of what kind of Articles] they may present to the Indians. The result

[95] From a photostat of the draft in the Department of State. The letter sent, in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge, is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. It varies from the draft above in spelling, capitalization, and punctuation only.

of your united deliberations (as I am satisfied it will meet my approbation) you may communicate to the Society; as they may want to make some arrangements, in case their request should be granted, before the Commissioners depart for Sandusky.

On my way to this place I saw Capt. Barney at Baltimore who has just arrived from the Havanna; and says, the day before he left that place, which I believe was the 10 Ulto., advice had been received and generally believed, that our friend McGillivray was dead; and that Bowles who was sent to Spain had been *hanged*. Whether this news is true or not, I am not authorized to say, tho' Capt. Barney seems to entertain no doubt of the facts.

Genl. Posey, who is now with me, informs me he is ready to receive any instruction you may wish to give him, and desires to know how he is to be disposed of. I expected he had received your orders before this time [to join the Main Army]; but as it is not the case, I hope you will without delay [do this, or] inform him for what particular service he is destined [if any thing more advantageous was in contemplatn. for him.] I am &c.

P. S. If General Posey is ordered to join the Main Army, he desires to be permitted to take Philadelphia in his way, in order to provide himself with some necessaries, which he cannot conveniently procure elsewhere.[96]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, April 5, 1793.

Dear Sir: From Baltimore I acknowledged the receipt of your letter of the 29th. Ulto; as I am now about to do that of the first instant from hence.

[96] The draft is in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

I had no idea of your obtaining money from Mr. de Barth,[97] if it was even more abundant than you represent it to be, nor do I believe he had any expectation at the time we bargained to make the payments stipulated. It was, I am satisfied, a Speculation on his part, depending upon the chapter of accidents to comply with. Such was the opinion of others at the time, and such has his conduct evinced since. The disappointment to me is great, as I wanted to apply the money to particular uses. Public securities, (but of these I dare say he is as scarce, as he is of Cash) would do.

Let me know in your next, after the receipt of this, what are the *real* selling prices of Flour in Philadelphia, and the opinion of the *knowing ones* whether the probability is, that it will rise, fall, or remain where it is for any time. In this State it has fallen, but the scarcity of Cash, and War, or the probability of one between France and G: Britain, are assigned as the causes, together with the want of Vessels to export the produce of the Country.

Offer my best wishes to Mrs. Lear and our little friend Lincoln and believe me to be as I really am Your etc. [H.L.]

*To SAMUEL HANSON[98]

Mount Vernon, April 7, 1793.

Sir: A few weeks *only* before I left Philadelphia, your letter of the 22d. February came to my hands. Why it was so long on its passage I am unable to inform you.

I have put my name to the Subscription paper therein enclosed, although as a common centre, I am applied to for aids beyond my means, for in truth I escape few contributions to anything of this sort, or to public buildings, such as Colleges,

[97] John Joseph De Barth.
[98] Hanson always signed himself "Sm Hanson of Saml."

Churches &ca. &ca. that are undertaken *by Subscription* within a circle of considerable extent around me. Were it not for these I wd. have given a larger sum than is affixed to my name, as the measure is entirely approved[99] by Sir, &ca.[1]

To JAMES KEITH

Mount Vernon, April 7, 1793.

Dear Sir: On my way to this place, at Georgetown on Tuesday the 2 inst: Messrs. Wilson and Dunlap applied to me respecting the Judgments which had been obtained against the assignees of John Semple, in favr. of Colville's Estate.

The one for £748.17. curtt. money and costs, with the deduction of £65.2.2. by consent they are willing they say to pay *immediately;* and offered to discharge the balance on the other Judgment for £1576 (Is this the amount of the Bond?) Sterling, leaving the interest *during the war* to the decision of a Court of Chancery. My reply to them was, that I could receive nothing short of the *whole balance,* with interest complete; and that an injunction in my opinion would only effect delay, without affording them relief. in ten days they promised to give me a decided answer, whether they would pay the balance with interest, or enjoin; and requested execution might be stayed that time.

As they professed a readiness to pay the balance due on the Judgment for £1576, leaving the interest to be paid or not according to the decision of the Court of Chancery (in case of an injunction), I desired Mr. Dandridge on Saturday last, to ask you if it would be adviseable to receive it, or to let the whole of

[99] To purchase an organ for Christ Church, Alexandria, Va., in honor of Reverend Mr. Davis.

[1] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

that judgment remain until a final determination, if the matter must go into Chancery, the latter he understood to be your opinion.

Whatever may be the determination of those against whom judgment is obtained, my earnest request to you is, that no measure may be left unessayed on my behalf, to bring the matter to as speedy a close as possible; and the money (after paying the charges as mentioned in a former letter to you) paid to Colo. Hooe on accot. of the claim of Mr. Bennett &c. I am etc.[2]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, April 8, 1793.

Dear Sir: Since my last to you from this place, your letter of 3d. instt. has been received transmitting Colo. Cannon's Rental,[3] and Mr. de Barth's profession of inability to discharge his Bond. The latter seems to be a more candid acct. than the former; but with both, I must be satisfied, presuming, I shall never obtain better, from either.

Before you say any thing to Mr. C—— with respect to the lands which Mr. de Barth had of me, and is willing to relinquish; I beg you to have some conversation with the Attorney General in the subject he mentioned to me respecting Mr. C—— which I did not very clearly understand at the time, and know less of it now. It seemed to squint (if I recollect rightly) at a sort of speculation which might implicate the Seller; but in what manner I know not. As I do not mean, however, to place it in the power of malice itself to charge me with any Agency in measures that can even be tortured into impropriety on this head, I wish the above enquiry to be previously made.

[2] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*
[3] Cannon's account, under date of Apr. 2, 1793, is in the *Washington Papers.*

If it is not too late, I mean if the Assembly of Pennsylvania has not risen, and the opportunity lost, I wish you would enquire of Mr. Gallitan,[4] and others from the Western Country, into whose hands I could, to advantage, entrust the management of my business in the Counties of Fayette and Washington: for I am sure it will not do to leave it in the hands of Colo. Cannon; who, if nothing else is against him, is too dependent for his election as representative of the latter County to fix my Rents at a just medium; or to collect them in the manner he ought to do, lest his popularity should be affected by it. And, if the rents are liable to be applied, (when under leases for five years, and after farms have been settled 12 or 15 years) towards repairs and improvements, I may bid adieu to any prospect of profit from them; as nothing can be easier than to balance the acct. by fence rails, and other such like improvements; which every man who ever had a farm, and expected to make any thing on it, always did, and for their own sakes ever will be obliged to provide for the security of their Crops at their own expence. It is usual when a tenant goes on a *New place,* and has *every* thing to provide, to allow him one, two, and sometimes (according to situation and circumstances) three years rent free; but I never heard before, of a continuance of it on farms so long settled as I have mentioned, and which have *always* been in occupation. nor is it to be suppod. that a tenant will ever do any thing at his own expence, if, by agreement, he can charge it to the account of his Landlord.

As the Will of my deceased Nephew will not be proved at next Court for this County, I shall not (unless obliged to wait for Mr. Robert Lewis, who has written me that he shall be here with some Rents, and to settle other business with me) remain here 'till Monday the 15th, but as I shall (unless advices from

[4] Albert Gallatin.

Philadelphia or, other occurrences unknown to me at present render it inconvt.) go by the way I had contemplated to come, if the Roads would have permitted it; that is, by Frederick town in Maryland, Carlisle, Harrisburgh, the upper Canal, Reading and the lower Canal; it is not in my power at this time to name the day when it is probable I shall be in Philadelphia, but at any rate, if no accident happens, nor my horses fail me, it will be by the 25th. of the month at farthest.

Fanny Washington thanks you for your friendly remembrance of her and joins me in best wishes for yourself, Mrs. Lear and Lincoln. I am etc. [H.L.]

*To REVEREND BRYAN FAIRFAX

Mount Vernon, April 9, 1793.

Dear Sir: At One o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday next, I mean to pay the last respect to my deceased Nephew, by having the funeral obsequies performed.

If you will do me the favor to officiate on the occasion, it will be grateful to myself, and pleasing to other friends of the deceased. No sermon is intended, and but few friends will be present: for these dinner will be ready at half after two Oclk, at which I should be happy and shall expect to see you.

If Mr. Thos. and Ferdinand Fairfax, or either of them are at Mount Eagle, I should be glad if they would accompany you I am etc.

*To DOCTOR JAMES CRAIK

Mount Vernon, April 9, 1793.

Dear Sir: On Thursday, at 1 oclock afternoon, it is proposed to pay the last office (in funeral obsequies) to my deceased Nephew; at which I should be glad to see you. The funerl.

service will be in the presence of a few friends only; and dinner for these will be ready at half after two Oclock; at which I shall expect you.

Mrs. Washington mentioned Mr. Porter (as an intimate of her late husbd.) and I should be glad to see him on the occasion. I do not, as it is intended to be a private burial, go beyond this in formal invitations; but if you shd. see Colo. Fitzgerald, Mr. Herbert, and Colo. Gilpin, who I believe, were among the first and most intimates of his acquaintances, and would mention these circumstances to them I should be obliged to you and happy in seeing them. I am etc.

To DAVID STUART

Mount Vernon, April 9, 1793.

Dear Sir: On Thursday next at one o'clock, I mean to pay the last respect to the remains of my deceased Nephew, by having the funeral obsequies performed.

Mrs. Fanny Washington and myself would be very glad to see you, Mrs. Stuart and the girls here on that occasion; for this reason, and knowing they have not the means of getting down, a carriage is sent for them: and I believe it would be extremely grateful to Fanny if Mrs. Stuart would come down without more delay than she can well avoid. The funeral will be in the presence of a few friends *only*.

The day following, that is on Friday, if not unexpectedly prevented, I shall set off on my return for Philadelphia.

Charles takes up a Box with some things for the Girls, in which is some property of Austin's, not hard to designate, tho' hard in it's nature. My love to Mrs. Stuart, and all the family. I am etc.[5]

[5] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To JOHN FITZGERALD

Mount Vernon, April 12, 1793.

Sir: Enclosed is an open Letter to Mr. Lee,[6] Collector at Alexandria, requesting him to deliver up the Office books and papers to you; tho' it would be more regular, and in my opinion better that the matter should be suspended until I return to Philadelphia, (for which place I shall set out tomorrow) when a Commission will issue agreeably to Constitutional modes.[7] I am etc.[8]

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, April 12, 1793.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 7 instant was brought to me by the last post. War having actually commenced between France and Great Britain, it behoves the Government of this Country to use every means in its power to prevent the citizens thereof from embroiling us with either of those powers, by endeavouring to maintain a strict neutrality. I therefore require that you will give the subject mature consideration, that such measures as shall be deemed most likely to effect this desirable purpose may be adopted without delay; for I have understood that vessels are already designated privateers, and are preparing accordingly.

Such other measures as may be necessary for us to pursue against events which it may not be in our power to avoid or controul, you will also think of, and lay them before me at my arrival in Philadelphia, for which place I shall set out Tomorrow; but will leave it to the advices which I may receive

[6] Charles Lee.
[7] Fitzgerald's recess appointment was confirmed by the Senate, Dec. 30, 1793.
[8] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

tonight by the post, to determine whether it is to be by the most direct rout, or by the one I proposed to have come, that is, by Reading, the canals between the rivers of Pennsylvania, Harrisburgh, Carlisle, &ca. With very great &c.[9]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, April 12, 1793.

Dear Sir: In due course of Post I have received your Letters of the 5 and 8 instant, and thank you for the information contained in them.

Tomorrow I leave this for Philadelphia. the advices which I may receive this Evening by the Post, will fix my route by Baltimore (as usual), or by the one I intended to have come, that is, by Reading, the Canals between the rivers, Harrisburgh, Carlisle &ca. In either case ten days, I expect, will land me in the City.

Hostilities having commenced between France and England, it is incumbent on the Government of the United States to prevent, as far as in it lies, all interferences of our Citizens in them; and immediate precautionary measures ought, I conceive, to be taken for that purpose, as I have reason to believe (from some things I have heard) that many Vessels in different parts of the Union are designated for Privateers and are preparing accordingly. The means to prevent it, and for the United States to maintain a strict neutrality between the powers at war, I wish to have seriously thought of, that I may as soon as I arrive at the Seat of the Government, take such steps, tending to these ends, as shall be deemed proper and effectual. With great esteem etc.[10]

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[9] In the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[10] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, April 12, 1793.

Dr Sir: Your letter of the 8th instt. with its enclosures came duly to hand. It is painful, after the exertions Government have made to keep the Southern Indians quiet, and the expence that has been incurred to effect it, to receive such unfavorable accts. from that quarter as are contained in the letters of Mr. Seagroves which you have forwarded to me.

From Genl. Waynes representation of the want of Officers, I am of opinion that such of the newly appointed Ensigs. as are with the Army, ought to be Commissioned without delay, the commissioning of the other, provisional ones, may be suspended for further consideration.

I shall set out tomorrow for Philadelphia. The advices which I expect to receive by the Post this evening will decide whether it will be by the direct rout, or by the way of Carlisle, Harrisburgh and the Canals wch. is opening between the Susquehanna and Schoolkill, &ca. As I shall soon be at the Seat of government by either rout, I shall only add that it is with pleasure I hear your health is restored, and that I am etc.

To CHARLES LEE

Mount Vernon, April 12, 1793.

Sir: Your letter of the 4 instant came duly to hand. I am sorry it is not convenient for you to exercise the office of Collector at Alexandria any longer; but as it was your wish to deliver up all the official books and papers belonging to your office, before the present date, I requested Colo. Fitzgerald yesterday, to receive them; altho' it is not agreeable to me to go into the detail of business with any except the head of the

Department to which it belongs, or thro' him with the immediate Agent. However, as you are about to leave town, I shall depart from this rule in the present instance, and do now request that you will consider Colo. Fitzgerald as your Successor in office, and (if it be inconvenient to you to hold them until the matter can pass through the usual form) deliver the Official Books and papers to him accordingly I am etc.[11]

To JAMES KEITH

Mount Vernon, April 13, 1793.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 8 has been duly received. You, better than I, can account for the small judgments being for two hundred and odd pounds more than is due. Justice to all parties and a speedy settlement of the whole, is all I aim at, the latter, as I have often repeated, I am extremely desirous to have accomplished.

Was I to see Colo. Hooe, which is not likely now to happen, as I am in the very act of setting off for Philadelphia, I should be at a loss to know what to say to him respecting the charge on accot. of Giles, by the papers alone I could be governed in any conversation held with him, and these you have. If my memory does not deceive me, however, (but on it I never rely) there is a particular statement of this matter in the Will of Thomas Colvill. If it is *justly due* to the Tankervills, it ought undoubtedly to be paid, if it is not, I, as certainly, ought not to allow it. I rely therefore on you to have the matter thoroughly investigated, either by yourself, or some other eminent in Law, that I may act safely; for I have had too much trouble in this business already, to lay the foundation for more, by allowing a claim if it requires authentication.

[11] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Messrs. Wilson and Dunlap, on Tuesday the 2d. inst: required only ten days to consider whether they would pay the judgment on the Bond with, or without interest. this time is elapsed; and delay only can be their object, if they have not announced to you (to me they have not) their determination thereupon. Of course no time should be lost in issuing the execution. But who is it to be served upon? Cumberland Wilson, they say, who has no interest at all in the business! As you are so much better acquainted with this business than I am, and know my objects and wish, I shall, in one word, as I shall be out of the State in a few hours, leave the accomplishment of them to you, being Sir, etc.[12]

*QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE CABINET BY THE PRESIDENT[13]

Philadelphia, April 18, 1793.

Question I. Shall a proclamation issue for the purpose of preventing interferences of the Citizens of the United States in the War between France and Great Britain &ca.? Shall it contain a declaration of Neutrality or not? What shall it contain?

Questn. II. Shall a Minister from the Republic of France be received?

Quest. III. If received shall it be absolutely or with qualifications; and if with qualifications, of what kind?

Quest. IV. Are the United States obliged by good faith to consider the Treaties heretofore made with France as applying to the present situation of the parties. May they either renounce them, or hold them suspended 'till the Government of France shall be *established*

Questn. V. If they have the right is it expedient to do either, and which?

[12] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[13] Jefferson's *Anas* records that these questions were really Hamilton's and cites Randolph as his authority.

Questn. VI. If they have an option, would it be a breach of Neutrality to consider the Treaties still in operation?

Quest. VII. If the Treaties are to be considered as now in operation is the Guarantee in the Treaty of Alliance applicable to a defensive war only, or to War either offensive or defensive?

VIII. Does the War in which France is engaged appear to be offensive or defensive on her part? or of a mixed and equivocal character?

IX. If of a mixed and equivocal character does the Guarantee in any event apply to such a War?

X. What is the effect of a Guarantee such as that to be found in the Treaty of Alliance between the United States and France?

XI. Does any Article in either of the Treaties prevent Ships of War, other than Privateers, of the Powers opposed to France, from coming into the Ports of the United States to act as Convoys to their own Merchantment? or does it lay any other restraint upon them more than wd. apply to the Ships of War of France?

Quest. XII. Should the future Regent of France send a Minister to the United States ought he to be received?

XIII. Is it necessary or advisable to call together the two Houses of Congress with a view to the present posture of European Affairs? If it is, what should be the particular object of such a call?[14]

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[14] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress, a press copy of which is in the *Washington Papers.*

A note in Jefferson's writing, under date of April 18 in the *Washington Papers,* states that it was: "Agreed by all that a Proclamation shall issue, forbidding our citizens to take part in any hostilities on the seas with or against any of the belligerant powers, and warning them against carrying to any such powers any of those articles deemed contraband according to the modern usage of nations, and enjoining them from all acts and proceedings inconsistent with the duties of a friendly nation towards those at war."

The *Anas* for April 18 (recorded May 6) state: "We met. the 1st question whether we should receive the French minister Genest was proposed, and we agreed unanimously that he should be received Hamilton at the same time expressing his great

*To THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

(Circular)

Philadelphia, April 18, 1793.

Sir: The posture of affairs in Europe, particularly between France and Great Britain, places the United States in a delicate situation; and requires much consideration of the measures which will be proper for them to observe in the War betwn. those Powers. With a view to forming a general plan of conduct for the Executive, I have stated and enclosed sundry questions to be considered preparatory to a meeting at my house tomorrow; where I shall expect to see you at 9 o'clock, and to receive the result of your reflections thereon.[15]

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regret that any incident had happnd. which should oblige us to recognize the govmt. the next question was whether he shd. be received absolutely, or with qualificns. here H. took up the whole subject, and went through it in the order in which the questions sketch it. see the chain of his reasoning in my opn of Apr. 28. Knox subscribed at once to H's opn that we ought to declare the treaty void, acknoleging at the same time, like a fool as he is, that he knew nothing about it. it was clear it remained valid. E. R. declared himself of the same opn, but on H's, undertaking to present to him the authority in Vattel (which we had not present) and to prove to him that, if the authority was admitted the treaty might be declared void. E. R. agreed to take further time to consider. it was adjourned. we determd. Unanimly. the last qu. yt Congress shd nt be called. there havg been an intimition by E. R. that in so great a question he shd chuse to give a written opn, and this being approvd by the Pres. I gave in mine Apr. 28. H. gave in his. I believe Knox's was never thought worth offering or asking for. E. R. gave his May 6. concurring with mine. the Presidt. told me the same day he had never had a doubt about the validity of the treaty: but that since a question had been suggested he thought it ot to be considered that this being done, I might now issue Passports to sea vessels in the form prescribed by the French treaty. I had for a week past only issd. the Dutch form; to have issd. the French wd. have been presupposing the treaty to be in existence. the Presidt. suggested that he thot it wd be as well that nothing should be sd of such a question havg been under considn."

This record is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. Jefferson's opinion of April 28 is in the *Washington Papers*. Hamilton and Knox signed a joint opinion, May 2, which is entered in the "Letter Book." Knox submitted a separate opinion, May 16, which is also entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[15]From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress, a press copy of which is in the *Washington Papers*.

To JOHN CANNON

Philadelphia, April 19, 1793.

Sir: After the letter which I wrote in September last, I did not expect to have waited 'till this time for a reply. I therein stated, in as strong terms as decency would permit, the impression that your conduct, with respect to my business in your hands, had made upon me; and had no doubt but it would have drawn you to a settlement of your accounts with me, or at least produced some explanation from you: Neither of which have, however, been effected by it.

It is unnecessary for me to make any comment on your conduct in this business, you must yourself be forcibly struck with the impropriety of it. I shall, therefore, only observe, that however painful it may be to my feelings, and opposite to my wishes, yet I shall be obliged, in justice to myself, to pursue another mode of application, if this should be found ineffectual. I am etc.[16]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, April 21, 1793.

Mr. Whiting: On Wednesday last I arrived in this City[17] to dinner, without meeting any interruption, or accident on the Road. and this day received your letter of the 17th. instant, with all the Reports of the two preceeding weeks, except those of the Gardeners and Spinners; neither of which, for either week, were enclosed.

I did not suppose that this was the season for demanding payment of taxes of any kind. I may be mistaken however;

[16] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[17] The President reached Philadelphia, from Mount Vernon, April 17.

but, as I do sincerely believe the under Sheriffs in Virginia to be amongst the greatest rascals in the world; it is my desire that you will get their demands from them in writing, and lay these before some Gentleman well acquainted with these matters; and know from him, first, when they have a right to destrain for the levies; for until that time you may with-hold payment, so as to give yourself time to provide the Tobacco or money; 2dly., whether the quantity of Tobao. demanded by them is just; 3dly. whether they have a right to fix 3*d.*, or any other cash price by way of commutation; and 4thly. to know if you cannot discharge their just claims, to get the Tobacco for less than 3*d.* per lb. Let me know if the Scantling is delivered according to the Bill I sent, and what the price of it is; also whether any Oyster shells have been received; the quantity and price; and your prospect for more? these should be paid for as delivered, to encourage the Skippers to repeat their voyages.

The middlings and Ship-stuff[18] may be sold to answer the money calls which you will have upon you: but I entreat that these may be as few as you can possibly make them; for I acknowledge, altho' I have no doubt of the justness of the Acct. you handed to Mr. Dandridge, that the amt. was beyond what I expected to see in so short a time, but as I had not the particular articles to refer to, it was not in my power to form an accurate Judgment of the necessity for them; but there is one rule, and a golden one it is, that nothing should be bot. that can be made, or done without. People are often ruined before they are aware of the danger, by buying everything they think they want; conceiving them to be trifles, without adverting to a Scotch addage, than which nothing in nature is more true "that many mickles make a muckle." I am more pointed in

[18] Flour.

giving this sentiment because I perceive many things were yet to be got, at the Instance of Green, from the Stores in Alexandria. He will not care what cost I am run to for Carpenters tools. If it is that part of the ground, in the little swamp at Union farm, adjoining where the Overseers house is to be, that you have sown in Oats, and mean to lay down with Clover (if you can get the Seed) I shall be much mistaken if it produces either; as I take it to be as poor as any on the farm; and standing as much in need of Buck Wheat, or some thing else as a restorative. The sides of the Swamp below it, are, in my opinion, in much better condition to produce Oats and Grass than that; but it is my earnest desire that the spot in the lower meadow at the Mill, between the Race and the old bed of the Run (in Potatoes last year) should be laid down in Clover and Timothy, or timothy alone this Spring; that the whole of that meadow may become Mowing ground as soon as possible: and the square above (in Corn last year) so prepared, as to be fit for mowing the succeeding year.

I wish to know precisely, what ground you have sown, or mean to sow with Clover, or Clover and Timothy this Spring. And, as I do not believe it was done before I left home, I desire you will have the Ox eye window in the Green house so secured as to guard against another Robbery of that loft. The same with respect to the Corn loft, for that I know (intending several times to speak about it, but forgot to do so) is in the same situation as when the Corn was stolen from it. I wish also to know the quantity of Clover Seed that has been given to each field, or lot, which has been sown therewith the past winter or present Spring; and here I cannot help expressing, that, I felt both mortification and vexation, to find an ignorant Negro sowing these Seeds contrary to my reiterated direction to have them mixed with sand, or dry earth. The consequence

of not doing it will be, I expect, that the fields will either be loaded with, or so barren of Seed, as to be wasteful in the one case, or unproductive and useless in the other: whereas, if the quantity of seed intended for half an Acre had been put into half a bushel, and that half bushel filled with Sand or earth as above, and well mixed; the same cast that would have sewed wheat (which he was used to) would exactly have answered for the Grass seed: and, if this admixture of them had been made by the Overseer, there could have been no embezzlement of the Seed when so mixed. Without it, is there any reason to hope that the Seeds were more secure in the hands of a Negro Seedsman, suspected of being a rogue, than it was under a good lock? I am thus explicit, on this occasion, because I would have it clearly understood that when I do give positive directions, in any case whatsoever, they are not to be dispensed with.

As soon as all your Wheat is sent to the Mill, inform me of the whole amount; and what each field has produced. And when the Fishery is closed, let me know the result and profit of it. lay in sufft. for my own people.

I am extremely anxious that the Honey locust Seed that I sent home this Spring should be put into the ground, either where the Plants are to stand, or into a Nursery. Not doing this will be the loss of a year, and too many of these have passed of already, unprofitably for this purpose. I am absolutely against further delay. It would be a formidable outside fence from the Mill quite round to, and by Peaks; and nothing would be more agreeably to me than to see such an one growing there.

I did intend, but believe I forgot to desire, that at your next Sheep shearing, three things might be attended to with great care. first, to cull every Sheep, Ram, Wether and Ewe, that should appear old and unthrifty, to be used in Harvest, or disposed to the Butchers before Autumn: keeping them where

they could be got in good condition by that period. This, it is to be hoped, would prevent such frequent reports of their death, and support a healthy flock. Secondly, to chuse a sufficient number of the best formed, and best wooled ram lambs to breed from. and thirdly, to seperate at this time the Rams from the Ewes (for I found them running together last summer) and keep them apart until Michaelmas. To these a fourth thing might be added, and that is, to keep the ewe lambs of last year from Rams this, unless they are well grown, and not to be injured by going to them.

I am glad to find you have begun to plant Corn. I wish it was all in the grd. for I have generally found (although there are exceptions to it) that early planting turns out best: and as soon as circumstances will admit, it might perhaps be as well to commence planting your Potatoes at the Mornsn. House.

It did not occur to me to direct, when I ordered the frame for Dogue run Barn to be got, or rather, as my people knew I had often directed it before, I thought it unnecessary to repeat, that the Stocks were to be hewed on two sides only, because the Slabs, for bridges and other purposes, wd. be extremely useful. Now, I suppose it is too late to do it to much effect; yet, it may be done, as far as the case will admit.

Are the Jennies with foal? and how many Mule Colts is it supposed I shall have this Spring. Let there be a regular Register of all the Mares that go to the Jacks, and to the Stud horse this Spring; and handed to me when the Season is over.

As it may not occur to me again in time, I now desire that the fleeces may be well washed before they are taken from the Sheep; otherwise I shall have a larger part of the Wool stolen if washed after it is sheared. I desire also that each Overseer may be made responsible by attending to it himself, for the safe

delivery of it to you, and it is my request that as it is brought in it shall be weighed and an account thereof, together with the number of fleeces from each Farm sent to me immediately.

Enclosed is an open letter for Mrs. Fanny Washington's Overseer which I wish you to deliver and have an eye to the Plantation, now and then, when you may be going to the River Plantation.

I hope you continue to gain health and strength. but do not let these tempt you to do things which may bring on a return of your disorder. I wish you well and am etc.

*To THE EARL OF BUCHAN

Philadelphia, April 22, 1793.

My Lord: You might, from appearances, suspect me of inattention to the honor of your corrispondence: and if you should, I can assure you it would give me pain. Or you might conceive that, I had rather make excuses than acknowledge in time, the receipt of your favors as this is the second instance of considerable lapse between the dates of them and my acknowledgments, this also would hurt me, for the truth is, that your favor of the 22d. of last October, under cover of one from Doctr. Anderson of the 3d. of November, accompanying the 7th. 8th. 10th. and 11th. Volumes of the Bee, did not come to my hands until the 18th. of the prest. month.

Having by me the rough draught of the letter I had the honor of addressing to your Lordship in May, I do, agreeably to your request, transmit a copy thereof. It is difficult for me, however, to acct. for the miscarriage or delay of the original, as it was committed to the care of Mr. Robertson at his *own* request, to be forwarded along with the Portrait of me which (for the

reasons therein assigned) a preference had been given of him to take, for your Lordship; both of which, I expected you had received long since.[19]

The Works of Doctr. Anderson do him much credit, and when they are more extensively known will, I am persuaded, meet a very ready Sale in this Country. I have taken an occasion to mention his wish to a respectable member of the Philosophical Society of this City, who has promised to bring his name forward at the next meeting: entertaining no doubt of his being readily admitted; as his pretensions are known to stand on solid ground.

The favorable wishes wch your Lordship has expressed for the prosperity of this young and rising Country, cannot but be gratefully received by all its Citizens, and every lover of it. One mean to the contribution of which, and its happiness, is very judiciously portrayed in the following words of your letter "to be little heard of in the great world of Politics." These words I can assure your lordship are expressive of my sentiments, on this head; and I believe it is the sincere wish of United America to have nothing to do with the political intrigues, or the squabbles of European Nations; but on the contrary, to exchange commodities and live in peace and amity with all the inhabitants of the Earth. And this I am persuaded they will do, if rightfully it can be done. To administer justice to, and receive it from every power with whom they are connected will, I hope, be always found the most prominent feature in the Administration of this Country; and I flatter myself that nothing short of imperious necessity can occasion a breach with any of them. Under such a system, if we are allowed to pursue it; the agricul-

[19] On April 26 Lear wrote to Archibald Robertson, enquiring about the missing letter and portrait. This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

ture and Mechanical Arts; the wealth and population of these States will increase with that degree of rapidity as to baffle all calculation and must surpass any idea your Lordship can, hitherto, have entertained on the occasion.

To evince that our views, whether realized or not, are expanded; I take the liberty of sending you the Plan of a new City, situated about the centre of the Union of these States, which is designed for the permanent Seat of the Government; and we are at this moment deeply engaged and far advanced in extending the inland navigation of the River (Potomack) on which it stands and the branches thereof through a tract of as rich Country for hundreds of miles as any in the world. Nor is this a solitary instance of attempts of the kind, although it is the only one which is near completion, and in partial use. Several other very important ones are commenced and little doubt is entertained that in 10 years if left undisturbed we shall open a communication by water with all the Lakes Northward and Westward of us with which we have territorial connexion; and an inland navigation in a very few years more from Rhode Island to Georgia inclusively; partly by Cuts between the Great Bays and sounds and partly between the Islands and Sand banks and the Main; from Albemarle Sound to the River St. Marys. To these may also be added the erection of Bridges over considerable Rivers, and the commencement of Turnpike roads as further indications of improvements in hand.

The family of Fairfax in Virginia of whom you speak are also related to me by several intermarriages, before it came to this Country, (as I am informed) and since; and what remain of the old stock are near neighbours to my estate of Mount Vernon. The late Lord (Thomas) with whom I was perfectly acquainted, lived at the distance of Sixty miles from me after

he had removed from Belvoir (the seat of his kinsman) which adjoins my estate just mentioned, and is going to be inhabited by a young member of the family as soon as the house, wch. some years ago was burnt down can be rebuilt. With great esteem &c.[20]

PROCLAMATION OF NEUTRALITY

Philadelphia, April 22, 1793.

Whereas it appears that a state of war exists between Austria, Prussia, Sardinia, Great Britain, and the United Netherlands, on the one part, and France on the other; and the duty and interest of the United States require, that they should with sincerity and good faith adopt and pursue a conduct friendly and impartial towards the belligerent powers:

I have therefore thought fit by these presents, to declare the disposition of the United States to observe the conduct aforesaid towards those powers respectively; and to exhort and warn the citizens of the United States carefully to avoid all acts and proceedings whatsoever, which may in any manner tend to contravene such disposition.

And I do hereby also make known, that whosoever of the citizens of the United States shall render himself liable to punishment or forfeiture under the law of nations, by committing, aiding or abetting hostilities against any of the said powers, or by carrying to any of them, those articles which are deemed contraband by the modern usage of nations, will not receive the protection of the United States against such punishment or forfeiture; and further that I have given instructions to those officers to whom it belongs, to cause prosecutions to be instituted

[20] The original letter sent is in the British Museum, *Additional Manuscript* 12099. The text is from the draft in the *Washington Papers*.

against all persons, who shall, within the cognizance of the Courts of the United States, violate the law of nations, with respect to the powers at war, or any of them.[21]

To DOCTOR JAMES ANDERSON

Philadelphia, April 25, 1793.

Sir: It was not until the 18 instant that I had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 3d. of Novr: enclosing one from Lord Buchan, and accompanied by the 7. 8. 9. 10 and 11. volumes of the *Bee,* and a copy of the pamphlet on Wool.

While I beg your acceptance of my best thanks for the polite attention you have shewn in forwarding the several volumes of the *Bee,* and expressing my sincere wishes for the prosperity of that liberal and useful work, I must repeat my desire of being considered as a subscriber to it, and request to be informed to whom I shall make payment therefor.

I have been hitherto prevented, by my numerous avocations of a public nature, from perusing the Volumes which you first sent me, with that care and regularity which I wished; but such parts of them as I have had an opportunity of looking into, have convinced me that the work has been conducted with that view to a diffusion of useful knowledge upon which it was under-

[21] The text is taken from the publication of the Proclamation in *The Columbian Mirror and Alexandria Gazette.*

The *Journal of the Proceedings of the President,* under April 22, reads:

"The Heads of the Departments and the Atty Genl. met this day agreeably to notification.

"The consideration of the Queries which had been submitted to them was further postponed.

"The draft of a Proclamation by the Attorney General was approved and directed to be got ready for publication. . . .

"Signed the Proclamation of Neutrality."

Copies of the Proclamation were sent by the Secretary of State to the Ministers of France, England, and Holland, and he was desired by the President to send copies to the Governors of the different States. These were sent April 26.

taken, and in such a manner as must meet the approbation of the friends of science, and those who wish to promote the best interests of mankind. I am persuaded that, when the work becomes more generally known in this Country than it is at present, you will find a considerable demand for it from this quarter; for I believe I may say, without vanity, that my Countrymen are as eager in the pursuit of useful knowledge as their circumstances and necessary avocations will permit; and as these are every day becoming more favourable to such acquirements, it will not be an unfounded calculation to count upon an increasing demand here for such publications as inform the head and improve the heart.

I hope you will find it convenient to prosecute your proposed plan of publishing a periodical work on agriculture, the utility of which pursuit is so abundantly evident, and in which, comparatively speaking, so little progress has been made, at least in this Country. I am pleased to learn that you have been so successful in the experiments to improve your wool. I have been always convinced, that nothing more is necessary than an attention to the breed and management of Sheep, to produce the best wool in every Country that is suitable for tending them. I sincerely hope that Sir John Sinclair will meet with the success which his exertions merit, in this as well as in his other laudable undertakings to promote the good of Society. I am &c.[22]

To GOVERNOR THOMAS MIFFLIN

Philadelphia, April 25, 1793.

Sir: The measures which your Excellency proposes to adopt to prevent any hostile incursions into the Indian Country from this State until the proposed Treaty shall be finished, appear to

[22] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

me to be such as are proper for the occasion, and likely to prove successful. No others occur to me at present as necessary to secure the object; if any should, I will propose them with frankness, as I am persuaded, from the obliging manner in which you express your readiness to adopt them, that you will neglect no measure which may tend to facilitate the peace which is so desirable for our Country. I am etc.[23]

To WILLIAM WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, April 26, 1793.

Dear Sir: At the request of Mr. David Clarke, a Coach-maker of this City, I inform you that he made the carriage which I had with me at Charleston on my southern tour, and which you saw there. I am told that this carriage is pronounced a very handsome one in it's appearance, by persons of taste and judgment in that way, who have seen it and given an opinion upon it. As to the goodness of the materials and workmanship, I can pronounce with truth that they are equal to any I have ever met with; and the carriage has been put to a pretty severe test for the time I have had it.

Mr. Clarke says the reason of his wishing this information to be given you, is, that he understands you propose having a Carriage made in this City, and he is very desirous of having the job, not only on accot. of the advantage to be immediately derived from it; but he thinks it will prove the means of his getting more work from that quarter. With sincere regard, I am etc.[23]

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[23] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On April 27 Washington made the following note on the contract between William Allibone, superintendent of the Cape Henlopen lighthouse and all the beacons, buoys, etc.; the Delaware river and bay; and Matthew Van Dusen, blacksmith of Philadelphia; a mooring chain for one of the floating beacons in Delaware bay: "Approved, so far as it respects the new chain; but is there an entire loss of the old one?" From a photograph in the *Washington Papers*.

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, April 28, 1793.

Mr. Whiting: Your letter of the 24th. instt. with the weekly reports, except Greens, which was not among them, came to hand yesterday.

With respect to the Sheriffs acct., given in by Chs. Turner, it is my desire now (and was so expressed in my last) that you would enquire of some person well acquainted with the taxes, whether the rates there charged are the legal ones? and by what authority, if the Parish tax was levied in Tobo., he has converted it into 4/2 cash? If it is an arbitrary act of his own, and you can discharge this tax by purchasing Tobo. on more advantageous terms than he has charged it, or, if he is not warranted in making such a charge I will not pay it, because I am resolved not to submit to the impositions of such sort of people.

Upon the back of each Clerks note, I have directed what is to be done with them. Those which are to be paid by me, you are to settle for at 12/6 pr. Ct.; unless you shall be advised by those who are well knowing to these matters that they have a right to the Tobacco. This, I am sure, was the law formerly and I have no reason to believe it is altered since but have more reason to suspect these or some of them have been paid before: for it is very unusual for the Clerks and Sheriffs to let their fees lye over two or three years when there is a regular collection for them every year, or Officers whose business it is so to do. I wish also to know how it comes to pass that in Fairfax Parish I am charged for 376 Acres of Land seperately. I do not, unless I was at home and could have recourse to my Papers, know the agregate quantity of my land in that Parish, but sure I am, I have no seperate tract in it of 376 Acres.

I am very glad to find you have obtained a temporary supply of lime; but if you could get the Shells (even at 25/ per Bushls.) it would make that article come much cheaper than buying shell lime at 9d. I think I have been told that one bushel of Stone lime will go as far as three bushels of that made from Shells; but the quantity of either which it will take to lay a thousand Bricks, is more than I am able to inform. This knowledge you must learn from a comparison of different accts., to be obtained from the Bricklayers in Alexandria; as also the difference between the two kinds of lime; and the proportion of each to sand; and make Davis conform strictly to it: without which he will (as he always has done) put a great deal more lime than is necessary. I once made an experiment of this sort (in the Wall which runs from the Stercorary to the Ice house) but have forgot the proportions, in the different parts of that wall, but recollect well that in some part thereof there was considerably more sand than usual, therein. When you know the kind of lime you are to use, and how much of it the laying of a 1000 Bricks will take, you can be at no loss for the total required; as the Plan gives the number of Bricks which the building will take. Of Shells you need be under no fear of an overstock; but of lime, if it grows worse by keeping, I would not procure much more than is sufficient for that work. The foundation of which I should be glad (now you have got lime) to hear was begun; I mean the Brick Work; that no delay may happen to the Carpenters work; The first of which that will be wanting, is the pieces for the sleepers of the lower floor to rest on; and next, the Windows. I request that, in laying out the foundation you will be present, and attend to the directions I have given; for I shall be mortified if any mistake happens: and I wish also, that particular attention may be paid to fastening

the bars in the Cills of the Windows; and that the ends of these window Cills may be worked into the pillers of the Wall: for on these two things the security of that apartment (with a good door and lock) absolutely depends.

I am very glad to hear you have got part of the scantling; and of a good kind; and that you expect the rest without delay. Will you have shingles enough? Almost any kind will do for the top; as it will be pretty taunt, and when drawing to a point, will require narrow ones.

Is all the Peoples cloaths made, that Charlotte should be out of Work? The Spinning in this case, or indeed in any case, ought to go on expeditiously; to provide for the Fall cloathing.

Mrs. Washington informs me that her Overseer (Tayler) has applied for a Cart against Harvest; and requests that I would give such orders as I shall think proper concerning it. A Cart of some sort, I suppose is necessary; but as I know there is a pair of truck wheels belonging to the Plantation, a proper body put to them by her own people (an acct. of the time they are about it to be rendered and deducted) might suffice; as the Wheat will not be to be drawn far. The Corn ground at this Plantation must be kept clean and well worked, that it may be laid in wheat in August.

I perceive by the Report from the River Plantation that some of the hands were engaged in gathering and Sowing Cedar berries, which I was glad of, but if the gum, or glutinous substance was not rubbed of before sowing, the time and labour spent in this business will have been all lost.

The late stormy weather has, I fear, not only checked your fishing, but in all probability has put an entire stop to it, as the season is now far spent.

It was not my opinion when I left Mt. Vernon that the Coach Mare was with foal, but I yielded it to that of others. Let her be put to Traveller.

The Gardener applied to me, and seemed earnestly to wish, that he might be removed from the House he now lives in, to that in which Mr. Butler Sleeps, on acct. of its having a room to lodge in above (which a decent Woman would require) and another below to Cook in, with a floor unsusceptible of fire. Had this request been made before Mr. Butler went into it, I should have yielded to it without hesitation, as well for the accommodation of the Woman as for that of Mrs. Washington when she comes home, for she (the Gardeners wife) would be more at hand there, to receive her directions, and to do what might be required of her about the house than she could be at the other House; and I wish, even under this circumstance, the thing to take place. If Butler does not incline to go to the House where the Gardener at present lives in, (which by the bye is a very proper situation for an Overseer to be, to keep order and quiet in the family) he might have Shoemaker Wills old apartment scoured up, and made a little decent and go into that, as he wants nothing more than a place to sleep in, whereas the Gardener and his wife require for eating, washing and lodging more than one Room to be decent, which the Woman seems to be. There is a very good room over the Kitchen where Fairfax (your predecessor) used to lodge, but as the Major occupied it as a store room, I would not, if the things belonging to that estate are still in it, have them removed, lest it should be considered as a slight.

In looking over the last weekly report that has been forwarded to me, I perceive the allowance of Meal to Muddy hole is increased one peck; Union Farm, and River farm two pecks each, and Dogue Run Farm three Pecks: Whether this addition, with what goes to their absent hands is sufficient, I will not undertake to decide; but in most explicit language I desire they may have plenty; for I will not have my feelings again hurt

with Complaints of this sort, nor lye under the imputation of starving my negros and thereby driving them to the necessity of thieving to supply the deficiency. To prevent waste or embezzlement is the only inducement to allowancing of them at all, for if, instead of a peck they could eat a bushel of Meal a week fairly, and required it, I would not withhold or begrudge it them.

Mention every now and then how the wheat comes on and looks, Oats, Buck Wht. and the new sown grass also. I remain etc.

*To JOHN FITZGERALD

Philadelphia, April 28, 1793.

Dear Sir: Two or three days after my arrival in this City, I forwarded a Commission appointing you Collector of the Port of Alexandria; to be in force until the end of the next session of Congress, longer than which I could not issue one in the recess of the Senate but there is no instance of that body with-holding its consent to appointments thus made when offered to them for confirmation.

I am now about [to] give you a little trouble on my private Account. In Alexandria, stored in the warehouse belonging to Colo. Hooe, I have 141 barls. of Superfine, and 149 barls. of common flour; and at my Mill about an equal quantity of each sort, for Sale; and would thank you for letting me know the most that can be had for it on a credit of 40, 60, or even 90 days, in secure hands.

In the Tobacco Warehouses in Alexandria I have also 25 Hhds. of Tobacco of (as I am told) the first quality, being made of the sweet scented plant, little Fredk. &ca., tho' it stands in the notes as Oronoko neatly handled, and dry, and wish to know

what could be had for this? I have held it a guinea pr. Cwt. and am not disposed to take less, below is a list of the No. and weights of it. With great esteem etc.

To ROBERT LEWIS

Philadelphia, April 29, 1793.

Dear Sir: The land which was given to me by my mother, or as Heir at law I am entitled to without, I do, as I told you at Mount Vernon, make you a present of. It lies lies near the Accocreek old Furnance, and about eight miles from Falmouth, on the road leading to it; containing, as I have generally understood, about 400 acres of the most valuable pine in that part of the Country; but which, as I have been informed, has been much pillaged by trespassers. When you can ascertain the bounds thereof by a survey, for I have no papers to aid you in doing it, I shall be ready to convey to you my right.

I repeat my wish that you would attend to that small tract of mine of Potomac, about a dozen miles above the town of Bath; and to the lots which I have in that place. and when ever you may be in Winchester, I request you will make particular enquiry into the condition of a Lot which I have in that Town, and an out-lot belonging to it in the common adjoining thereto; and know if some advantage cannot be made of them. The number of either I am unable to give, unless I was at Mount Vernon; but the enclosed letter contains the most recent information of the town lot.

Do you know whether Major Harrison went to Mount Vernon as you expected he would do? Or have you heard anything further of his intentions respecting his land adjoining me. I do not wish you to appear forward in your Overtures to him; but

wish, notwithstanding, to know what may be expected in this matter. Remember me to Mrs. Lewis and be assured of the friendship and regard of Your etc.[24]

To JOHN JOSEPH DE BARTH

April 30, 1793.

Sir: As there appears no prospect of your making the stipulated payments for the lands which you agreed to purchase from me, lying on the Kanhawa &c., and the object of my disposing of them being thereby defeated, I think it would be best that the bargain should be cancelled (as you expressed to Mr. Lear a readiness to do it if required by me), for it would be an unpleasant thing for me to pursue any rigorous measures to obtain payment of the Bonds. If you think fit to comply with the proposal, Mr. Lear will deliver to you your several bonds &c., upon receiving the writing relative to that bargain, that it may be completely cancelled. I am etc.[24]

To JOHN JOSEPH DE BARTH

Philadelphia, May 2, 1793.

Sir: As there was a duplicate of the declaration given you by the President, for the purpose of being sent to Europe, the President has thought it proper, by the advice of Mr. Randolph the Attorney General, that the writing which you will find at the bottom of the declaration herewith enclosed, should be signed by you in the manner there specified, with three witnesses; in order to avoid any inconvenience which might possibly arise from the existence of the duplicate declaration, which is now out of your hands. If you will be so obliging as

[24] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

to execute this now, the servant will wait and bring it back to me.

As you expressed an apprehension yesterday that the President might have entertained an idea unfavorable to your character, from your not having fulfilled your part of the agreement by making payment of the Bond which was due; he directs me to assure you that he has no impressions on his mind unfavorable to your integrity or honor on that account, as he has every reason to believe, that the unfortunate situation of affairs in France has prevented you from complying with the Contract agreeably to the intention of the parties; and even if he should have entertained a different opinion before, the readiness with which you have cancelled the bargain, would have removed any doubts from his mind. I have the honor etc.[25]

*To SAMUEL POWEL

Philadelphia, May 4, 1793.

Dr. Sir: By one of the late Ships from London, I have received from Mr. Arthur Young, two sets of his Annals, Numbered from 98 to 108 inclusively. Although no direction is given concerning them, I take it for granted that one set is intended as usual for the Agricultural Society of this City; and to you, as President thereof, I send them accordingly. With esteem etc.[26]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, May 5, 1793.

Mr. Whiting: Since my last I have reced. your letters of the 26th. of April and 1st. of this month.

[25] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[26] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

I did not entertain the most distant suspicion of your having charged any thing in the acct. exhibited to Mr. Dandridge but what you had actually paid, for my use; for if I could suppose you capable of such a violation of the principles of honesty, and so lost to the trust reposed in you, my confidence in you would depart, and I should think my concerns very unsafe in your hands. I only meant to guard you against an error which is but too common, and the ill effects of which, oftentimes not foreseen, before they are severely felt; I mean that of not avoiding the purchase of *things*, that can be done without, or made within oneself. "A penny saved, is a penny got"; but from experience I know, that no under Overseer I have ever yet had, nor any of my black people who have not the paying for the articles they call for, can be impressed (as it respects me) with these ideas. On the contrary, things are seldom taken care of by them when they are lost, broke, or injured with impunity; and are replaced, or renewed, by asking for more. For these reasons as far as it is consistent with *just* propriety, make the Overseers, Green, and others, who have the Sub-management of parts of my business, responsible for whatever is committed to their care; and whenever they apply for a new thing that you will be satisfied of the necessity there is for granting it; if to supply a worn thing, to see the condition of, and to take in the old one. Unless this care and attention is used, *you* will be greatly imposed upon yourself and *I* shall feel the evil of it. I am perfectly satisfied that as much is made by saving (or nearly so) as there is by the Crops; that is, by attention to the crops when made, Stocks of all sorts; working Cattle; Plantation Utensils; Tools; fences; and though last, not least, to the Negros: first by seeing that they have every thing that is proper for them, and next, that they be prevented, as far as vigilance can accomplish it, all irregularities and improper conduct. And

this oftentimes is easier to effect by watchfulness and admonition, than by severity; and certainly must be more agreeable to every feeling mind in the practice of them. Speaking of Accts., and finding some articles of my deceased nephews mixed with mine; I request that, although they are, or may be paid with my money, yet that they may be kept entirely distinct from my accounts.

I cannot say that the Rams were not seperated (as they ought to have been) from the Ewes at shearing time last year, but from my own view I can (I think at Union Farm) say I saw Rams with my Sheep in the month of August last. Whether my own, or belonging to others, I know not. The last would be worse than the first, as I believe my Sheep are above mediocrity, when most others are below it. As I am constantly loosing Sheep I wish, this year, you would cull them closer. The flock would be benefitted thereby, whilst I might get something for the refuse; instead of the frequent reports of their deaths. And I wish you would reprehend the Overseers severely for suffering the Sheep under their respective care, to get so foul as I saw some when I was at home, particularly at Dogue run Farm. It is impossible for a Sheep to be in a thriving condition when he is carrying Six or eight pounds at his tale. And how a man who has them entrusted to his care, and must have a sight of this sort every day before his eyes can avoid being struck with the propriety and necessity of easing them of this load, is what I have often wondered at.

Having Sheep at five different places, it has often occurred to my mind whether for a certain part of the year, say from Shearing time or before until the first of December (or until the end of the period for folding them), they were, except the Rams, brought into one flock; distinguishing before hand those of the seperate farms by conspicuous marks made by tar, or red

lead in different parts, and placed under the care of a trusty negro if there be such an one; whose sole business it should be to look after, and fold them every night in hurdles made light and removed with the sheep from farm to farm; as the food at each would be eaten by them, and become scant. I think I should get my fields dunged sooner, and better by this means (with other common assistance) than by any other. Shifting their walks frequently would certainly be serviceable to the sheep if so great a number together would not be injurious; especially as thefts, and other depredations might be committed without the knowledge of their Keeper; for I know not the Negro among all mine, whose capacity, integrity, and attention could be relied on for such a trust as this. I do no more than suggest the idea for consideration; when you have given it a consideration, let me know the result of your thoughts on the occasion.

I was affraid the heavy rains, and long Easterly winds would prove injurious to the fruit, and probably to the grain, if they should continue; but I did not expect to find that I was to loose Calves by it; four of wch. I find by the River farm Report, are dead. This, and looking over the other Reports, and finding thereby the small number of Calves I have, leads me to apprehend that there is some defect in the management of this part of my Stock; for it is inconceivable that out of 300 head of Cattle I should have but about 30 Calves, as appears by the last weeks report. This must proceed from the want of, or from old and debilitated Bulls. Let me know whether the fruit (of different kinds) is injured by the Easterly winds which have blown so constantly; and whether the Wheat &ca. appear to have received any hurt. The Oats, Buck Wheat, and grass will, I hope, be benefitted by the Rains and it would give me pleasure to hear that your White thorn, Willow, Poplar, and other

Cuttings were coming on well? Does the last, and present years planting of Honey locust seed come up well, and is there any appearance of the Cedar berries, Furze seed, Lucern, &ca., &ca. coming up, and answering expectation? And is your Corn coming up, or likely to rot in the ground with the wet weather we have had?

The outer fence, from the mill to the Tumbling Dam should be secured as well as the nature of the thing will admit. That it is bad, I will readily grant; and that the man (John Fairfax) under whose superintendence it was erected, ought to be charged with all the timber and labour expended thereon, I will as readily allow; but to think of what ought to be, is unavailing, when there is no remedy but to make good deficiency's, and to avoid future errors.

I have again written to Colo. Willm. Washington respecting Oyster shells, but would not have you, on that acct., slaken your endeavors to procure them, as I can not procure too many of them *before* the yare burnt. Lime might spoil; Shells will not.

I approve much of your setting Davis about the Brick work of the Barn, and hope he will carry it on expeditiously, that there may be no interruption to the Carpenters.

I am well satisfied, by engaging the Scantling of the Alexandria, Merchants, that I pay 10 or 15 pr. Ct. more than I should do at the Mills. The advantage of doing it is, that one gets it by a Bill with out waste; and you have some one to resort to for damages in case of disappointment: for it is well known that the Skippers of Shallops, of whom one might engage it, pay no sort of regard to their engagements unless there interest is promoted thereby; so that any contract entered into with them, is only binding on yourself. If, however, I should, after seeing how I got on with the Barn at Dogue run, resolve to build another at the River farm, and you can get the Scantling on better

(and on secure) terms than the last, it will be very pleasing to me you should do it.

I would not have you proceed to Loudoun with a view to see Major Harrison, and to talk to him concerning his Land. If he is disposed to sell on such terms as I can afford to buy, I shall get the Land; as I have already empowered Mr. Lewis to buy it but this need not be mentioned; an attempt through another Channel would induce him to enhance his price from a supposition that I was very keen to bargain and his ideas of its worth is already too high, from what I have heard through that channel before mentioned.

Let me know what quantity of Clover Seed you will want, that I may decide in time whether it will be best to purchase here, or in Alexandria; but is there no way of avoiding this expence by having this seed, or part of what is wanting, yourself?

I consent to your placing a temporary gate at the foot of the lane, at Mansion house, as mentioned by you; though it is an aukward place to fix one. My idea is, but this will require more time, to continue that lane from the Corner of the New clover lot until it strikes the fence in the hollow, by or North of the other Gate. In that case only the present gates would be to be opened in approaching the House; and a gate out of that lane would open into the great Pasture; and secure the Gardens, Lawns &ca., in the manner proposed in your letter. A gate at the lower side of the Vineyard inclosure between that and the Lucern lot, or a sett of bars, appear to me to be as necessary for security of the Gardens Lawns &ca. as at the other end, as Hogs are always thereabouts and Horses and Cattle can come along the Shoar that way.

If you intimated to Mrs. F. Washington the inconvenience it would be to the business of my Farms to have two horses at this busy season taken away for any length of time, it is to be hoped,

after she gets to Berkeley, they will be sent down; but if this circumstance was not know [*sic*] to her, it is not likely that this will happen.

I hope as Frank can have little to do in the House, you will make him go on with the painting; under strong injunction to be careful of that, and the Oil.

Do you not get paid for the Cask when you sell Midlings and Ship-Stuff? it always used to be a custom to do this. Enquire whether this is not the case now.

Desire the Gardener to be very attentive to the Seeds and Plants which, at different times, I have sent to him to sow and cultivate. and to raise what seeds he can from them, especially from the foin in the little Garden.

I remain with best wishes for the continuance of your health, and am etc.

PS. When your fishing is completed, let the Seins be thoroughly dried and packed away securely from Rats and Mice. Were they to be thoroughly repaired, they would be the better for it.

*To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

(Private)

Sunday Noon, May 5, 1793.

Dear Sir: Before you dispatch the circular letter (of wch. you enclosed me a Copy) to the several Collectors, I would speak to you respecting a particular clause in it.

In the conversation you may have with a certain Gentleman [27] to-day, I pray you to intimate to him gently, and delicately, that if the letters, or papers wch. he has to present, are (knowingly to him) of a nature which relates to public matters, and not particularly addressed to me; or if he has any verbal communi-

[27] Vicomte de Noailles.

cations to make of a similar kind, I had rather they should come through the proper channel. Add thereto, generally that the peculiar situation of European Affairs at this moment my good wishes for his Nation agregately, my regard for those of it in particular with whom I have had the honor of an acquaintance; My anxious desire to keep this Country in Peace; and the delicacy of my situation renders a circumspect conduct indispensably necessary on my part. I do not, however, mean by this that I am to with-hold from him such civilities as are *common to* others. Those *more marked,* notwithstanding our former acquaintance, would excite speculations which had better be avoided. And if the characters (similarly circumstanced with his own) could be introduced by any other than *himself;* especially on tuesday next in the public room when, it is presumed, the Officers of the French Frigate will be presented it would, unquestionably be better. But how can this be brot. about as they are strangers without embarrassment as the F. M.[28] is shy on the occasion I do not at this moment see, for it may not escape observation (as every movement is watched) if the head of any department should appear prompt in this business in the existing state of things. I am &c.

*To GOVERNOR HENRY LEE

(Private)

Philadelphia, May 6, 1793.

Dear Sir: On Saturday last your favor of the 29th. ulto. was handed to me. My visit to Mount Vernon (intended to be short when I set out) was curtailed by the Declaration of War by France against Great Britain and Holland; for I foresaw in the moment information of that event came to me at that place

[28] French Minister.

the necessity for announcing the disposition of this Country towards the Belligerent Powers; and the propriety of restraining, as far as a Proclamation would do it, our citizens from taking part in the contest. This Proclamation, I presume, must have reached you soon after the date of your Letter.

It gives me inexpressible pain to receive such frequent, and distressing accounts from the Western frontiers of this Union (occasioned by Indian hostilities); more especially as our hands are tied to defensive measures and little, if any thing more to be expected from the proposed Negotiation of Peace with the hostile Tribes to be assembled at Sandusky (tho' perhaps, it is best for me to be silent on this head) than, in case of failure, to let the good people of these States see that the Executive has left nothing unessayed to accomplish this desirable end; to remove those suspicions which have been unjustly entertained that Peace is not its object; and to evince to them that the difficulties which it has had to encounter (from causes which, at present, can only be guessed) has been greater than was apprehended. And lastly, if the Sword is to decide, that the arm of government may be enabled to strike home.

I come now to a more difficult part of your letter. As a public character, I can say *nothing* on the subject of it. As a private man, I am unwilling to say much. To give advice I shall not.[29] All I can do, then towards complying with your request, is to declare that if the case wch. you have suggested was mine, I should ponder well before I resolved; not only for private considerations but on public ground. The latter, because being the first magistrate of a respectable State, much speculation would be excited by such a measure; and the consequences thereof not

[29] Lee's letter stated his idea of going to France and entering the French Army. A major general's commission was to be given to him. A copious extract from Lee's letter is printed by Sparks as a footnote to this letter from Washington; but Lee's original letter is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

seen into at the first glance. As it might respect myself only because it would appear a boundless Ocean I was about to embark on from whence no land is to be seen. In other words because the Affairs of ——[30] would seem to me to be in the highest paroxysm of disorder; not so much from the pressure of foreign enemies (for in the cause of liberty this ought to be fuel to the fire of a patriot soldier, and to increase his ardour) but because those in whose hands the G——t is entrusted are ready to tare each other to pieces, and will, more than probably prove the worst foes the Country has. To all which may be added the probability of the scarcity of Bread, from the peculiar circumstances of the contending parties and which, if it should happen would accelerate a crisis of sad confusion and possibly of entire change in the political system.

The enclosed came under cover to me by one of the late arrivals. If the date of it is as old as the one to me which accompanied it, it can contain nothing New. although no name will appear to this letter I beg it may be committed to the flames as soon as it is read. I need not add, because you must know it that I am always yours.

To ROBERT TOWNSEND HOOE

Philadelphia, May 7, 1793.

Sir: Your letter of the 25 ulto. came duly to hand. The enclosed to Mr. Keith (which I take the liberty of putting under cover to you, as there is no postage to pay, because as he does

[30] France.

On May 6 Lear wrote to William Hartshorne, that "it is not the intention of the Government of the United States to have any agency in purchasing or transporting produce on account of the French. the only part it can take in that business will be to furnish the means (out of the debt due from the United States to France) to such Agent or Agents as may be duly authorised by the French Government to make purchases."

On this same day (May 6) Lear also wrote to John Mason a letter of similar purport. Both these letters are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

not seem to be in the habit of sending regularly to the Post-office, letters to him sometimes sleep there) is expressive of my consent to his receiving from Mr. Wilson, and paying to you on account of Mr. Bennett, all the money that propriety will admit; for I can assure you, with much truth, that none of the parties can be more anxiously desirous of closing this business than I am, whatever is done therefore by Mr. Keith will be agreeable to me. Dr. Sir etc.[31]

*To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Philadelphia, May 7, 1793.

Dear Sir: As I perceive there has been some mis-conception respecting the building of Vessels in our Ports wch. may be converted into Armed ones; and as I understand from the Attorney General there is to be a meeting today, or tomorrow of the Gentlemen on another occasion, I wish to have that part of your circular letter which respects this matter reconsidered by them before it goes out.

I am not disposed to adopt any measures which may check Ship-building in this Country. Nor am I satisfied that we should too promptly adopt measures, in the first instance, that is not indispensably necessary. To take *fair* and *supportable* ground I conceive to be our best policy, and is all that can be required of us by the Powers at War; leaving the rest to be managed according to circumstances and the advantages which may be derived from them. I am &c.

Quere, Is it not expedient that the District Attornies should be written to, requiring their attention to the observance of the Injunctions of the Proclamation?[32]

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[31] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[32] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On May 7 Washington wrote to Arthur Young, introducing Dr. Enoch Edwards. This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To JAMES KEITH

Philadelphia, May 8, 1793.

Dear Sir: Enclosed is Colo. Hooe's letter to me on the subject of Mr. Bennett's claim on Colvills estate. I can only again express my wish that you would do in this case what in your own judgment is perfectly legal and just. or in points which appear doubtful that which able counsel shall advise you to as proper. I want most exceedingly to close this business; and am perfectly willing that Mr. Bennett's claim should be fully discharged, upon the convictions and principles above mentioned. but I know not to this hour, whether Messrs. Wilson and Dunlap mean to enjoin on one of the Judgments, or discharge it with interest agreeably to the Decree of the Court; although they promised on the 1 or 2 of April to let me know their decision thereon in ten days or a fortnight from that date. The ground for an injunction, if that is the result, is on the score of interest during the war; consequently my allowing interest to Mr. Bennett must depend upon the Decree of the High Court of Chancery in this case (if the matter is carried thither), for the Estate of Colvill can only do, as it is done by, and if the Judgment on the Bond is hung there, it will lie with you, as I have declared in a former letter, with your Counsel, to say whether the case will be affected by receiving the principal due on the Bond, or any part thereof, whilst the interest thereof is in litigation. In a word, whether they may not avail themselves of this circumstance as a plea to invalidate the demand of Interest. By all this, I mean no more than to express my wish to act circumspectly. Keeping this then always in view, I cannot too often repeat the earnestness of my desire to make a final settlement of this administration. Whatever

money you can receive properly, and pay properly to Colo. Hooe on accot. of Mr. Bennett's claim, will be perfectly agreeable to me, as I do not want to touch a copper of it, and know of no other claims to which it can be applied. I am etc.

P. S. I had closed this letter when your favor of the 3d. was handed to me. the sentiments contained in mine with the proposition of Messrs. Hooe and Little, go to your queries respecting a settlement with them as Agents of Lord Tornkerville and Mr. Bennett; and also (the controversy having ceased) to that of Mr. Wilson. The accot. rendered by Colo. Hooe, I transmitted to you some time since, the regularity and equity of which you are to judge agreeably to the caution already given; having everything before you, being better acquainted with the subject, and more leisure to do it than myself. finally, if the sum which shall be found due from Semple's trustees, on settlement with Mr. Wilson, amounts to more than the balance due to the Agents of Bennett &c. [the application thereof shall be directed as soon as it is made known to me. On the other hand, if it should fall short, I will provide for the deficiency, as far as I have Assets. The trouble which the Attornies have had in this business you are better acquainted with than I am, and whatever you may think just, I am willing to allow. I had not, however, thought *their* trouble uncommon: One Suit being on a simple Bond; the other on an Acct. prepared to their hands. But, as I have already said, I wish them to be adequately paid. Your trouble, I am well satisfied, has been great; and I have every disposition to reward it, as far as those who have had the matter before them formally, or any others, may think me justified in allowing. I am etc.][33]

[33]From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. The portion in brackets is from a photostat of that portion of the original, in the writing of Washington, in the Harvard College Library.

To WILLIAM HERBERT

Philadelphia, May 9, 1793.

Dear Sir: I have duly received your Letter of the 3d. of this month, with the Bill enclosed. in which I do not perceive my name is inserted. If it had, the enclosed would have been my answer. But before it is exhibited or any use made thereof, I pray that the records of the Trustees of Alexandria, may be thoroughly examined, to see if any act of mine shall appear thereon, for my memory is too treacherous to place dependance on it in cases where accuracy is necessary. I am etc.

P. S. Upon considering my answer (unless I am mistaken in point of fact) I hope my name will not appear in the Bill, returned.

THE SEPARATE ANSWER OF GEORGE WASHINGTON, ONE OF THE DEFENDANTS TO THE BILL OF COMPLAINT, EXHIBITED AGAINST HIM AND OTHERS BY GEORGE WM. WEST, COMPLAINANT

This defendant not confessing any matter or thing in the said Bill contained, for answer thereto, as far as he is advised, saith. That he doth not recollect that he was ever named or appointed a Trustee or Director, as in the said bill is charged; and if he was ever so named or appointed, he doth not recollect or believe, that he hath at any time qualified or acted as such. This Defendant therefore cannot answer any of the particulars referred to in the said bill, but disclaims and disavows any concern therein, and prays to be hence dismissed.[34]

To THOMAS LOWREY

Philadelphia, May 9, 1793.

Dear Sir: When I mentioned to the President the other day, the horse which you spoke about to me; altho' from the

[34] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

description, he thought well of him; yet as he was supplied, he did not conclude to take him: But upon further consideration, the President conceives it might be better for him to get the horse you spoke of, as he was younger and larger than the one he has, and dispose of his: and has therefore directed me to write to you on the subject.

If I understood you rightly you represented the horse to be four years old this spring; a good bay, nearly 17 hands high, well formed and almost full blooded. the price which the man asked for him 200 dollars, but supposed he might be obtained for something less. Should this be a just conception of your description, and his head (upon the form and leanness of which the President counts much) be an handsome one and his figure just; the President will take him at a price not exceeding 200 D., and will be much obliged to you for your agency in getting him; but if the owner of him will agree to send him here for the President to see, first fixing the price at which the President may have him, if he chuses to take him after seeing him, it would perhaps be better, the President to pay the reasonable expences of bringing him here if he takes him, and if he should not, to pay also the expence of taking him back again.

Giving you many thanks for your trouble in this business, I am etc.[35]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, May 12, 1793.

Mr. Whiting: Your letter of the 8th. with the Reports came duly to hand.

[35] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. The following is noted: "Duplicate of the above sent to Colo. Lowrey 3d. June."

On May 10 the following was entered in the *Journal of the Proceedings of the President:* "Directed the Atty Genl. to instruct the District Attornies to require from the Collectors of the several Ports, within them, information of all infractions of neutrality that may come within their perview at the different ports, requiring the interposition of Government, particularly as to building and equipping Vessels for War."

From the constant Easterly Winds which have blown ever since I left Mount Vernon I expected the Fishery would end poorly, and therefore am not disappointed at your report on this head.

The Clerks notes, which I return, must be paid; That from the Clerk of the District Court at Dumfries, I presume, comes against me as Executor of Colo. Colvil; but that you may be sure of it, the first time you go to Alexandria, shew it to Mr. Keith who will be able to decide whether the whole, any part, or no part, is on that account. If it is, the amount ought to be charged to that Estate; as also a Note from the same place sent to me some time ago "continuances against Stuart &ca. 90 lbs. Tobo." And Fairfax Clerks note "30 lbs. Tobo. Recording Colvils Estate acct." If Mr. Keith should require these, in order to introduce them into the general settlement let him have them. What has been the issue of the Suit against Pool? I recollect to have heard that he was brot. before the Court for something, and the Payment of 60 lbs of Tobo. agreeably to the enclosed note is I hear all I am likely to *get* by it, that I know of.

I know of no seperate tract of Land that my deceased Nephew Major Washington had in Fairfax Parish, and I am much mistaken indeed if that where his Plantation is, has not always been included in the tract of which it is part. But I know of no remedy until I shall have leizure to examine my Papers and to correct many abuses which my peculiar Situation has involved me in.

Let there be a half bushel, no matter how rough, 4 boards nailed together will be as good as the best, made for the Morter maker; and, when you have ascertained from the best information, what is the best proportions of lime and Sand, order the Person who mixes them by no means to depart from it. From my own observation little or no attention has been paid to this

hitherto, which, added to the self will, and conceitedness of Tom Davis has been the occasion of an unnecessary use of lime. I would wish to know the exact quantity of Lime that is used in the building at Dogue run, as it will be a guide in future: and to come at this will be very easy, as you know what was bought and can measure what remains, when the work is compleated. Confine your purchase henceforward to shells, because they will receive no injury; whilst Lime would spoil by keeping.

I will send you a pair of Scales capable of weighing 200 lbs. But what is become of the Scales which were in the Store? These for their size, were as good as could be made. Let me know what weights there are belonging to them. For weighing yarn, wool to the Spinners, &ca. &ca. none, surely can be better than those.

Medicines shall also be sent. I cannot get Clover Seed either at this place or New York under eight Dollars a bushel that can be warranted. but if that in Alexandria is European Seed, I would not be concerned with it; unless you are allowed to prove it. More than probable it is old, if it has escaped the heat of the Ships Hold.

Whensoever the Superfine flour is delivered remember that as much (or Wheat to make it) be reserved as will suffice till the New comes in.

I am glad to hear that the Grain and grass look well. inform me regularly how they come on. and do not suffer them to interfere with each other in cutting. The fields of Clover in the Vicinity of this City, exceed any thing of the kind I ever saw for luxuriency. I am not less pleased to find by your acct., that the plants and cuttings which have been set out for the purpose of hedges are taking well; and am anxious to hear whether the Cedar berries are likely to vegitate. What appearance does the plashed Cedars make. Has many of them died?

If it is indispensably necessary to get a New Cart for Mrs. Washington's Plantation I must direct it accordingly; but as it is uncertain what will be done with it after the present year, no expence that can well be avoided ought to be incurred on that place; especially in this instance of a New Cart, as the Wheat wd. be to be brought but a little way even if it comes to the old treading yard. If the Cart must be had, one for Oxen is preferable; and if I have any to spare they may go there and welcome.

From what little I saw of Mr. Butlar when I was at home, I fear he is not calculated for my business, or any other that requires activity and spirit. If upon further trial he should give stronger evidences of this, it may not be amiss to inform him in time that my purposes are not likely to be answered by his Services; and therefore it will be prudent for him to look out, against another year, for some other place; Nay, if he does not fulfil his agreement, it must be done sooner. Let the exchange between him and the Gardener take place (if it has not already happened) immediately.

Has any Mares been brought to the Jack, or stud horse besides my own? and in that case what number? If the horse is in good order it might not be amiss to shew him in Alexandria at Court, on Monday the 20th. instt.; it being Whitmonday also. Let me know if the mare I left at home is in foal or not.

It is with extreme vexation I find my orders, which were given in the most explicit; and equivocal manner, that the complaints of my Negros of the want of bread, are still suspended in the execution, or evaded as they have been, to the utter defeat of my intentions! which were prompted by motives of Justice in the first place, and to avoid in the second, the imputation of withholding the needful support from them; thereby driving them to, or at least affording a pretence, for the Commission of thefts.

Mrs. Washington desires you will direct old Doll to distil a good deal of Rose and Mint Water, &ca.; and we wish to know whether the Linnen for the People is all made up?

Was the Globe and Saddle sent from Mount Vernon to Alexandria? they are not yet come to this place. I remain etc.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, May 13, 1793.

Dear Sir: Sometime last fall I sent to Mr. Young transcripts of the accounts respecting the Agriculture of this Country, which I had collected from Gentlemen of the best information on this subject, with whom I was acquainted in the middle States, New York and Virginia. The account which you had the goodness to draw up was among the number. I have lately received from Mr. Young a letter in reply to mine which accompanied these Accounts; in which he makes the observations and queries relative to the Virginia Statement, wch. you will find enclosed.

As I wish this matter to be brought before Mr. Young in as clear a light as the nature of it will admit; you will oblige me by giving, when convenient, such answers to the queries and such solution of the difficulties stated by him as your knowledge of the subject may enable you to do, that I may give him the most satisfactory information in my power. I am always, with much truth &c.[36]

To RICHARD PETERS

May 16, 1793.

Dr. Sir: Mr. Young informs me by a letter which I have lately received from him, that the accounts relative to the state of Agriculture, which I had collected from various quarters and

[36] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

transmitted to him last fall, have set him afloat upon the high Seas of conjecture with respect to the agriculture of this Country. The account which you had the goodness to prepare for me was among the number of those sent to Mr. Young; and, as you have had a hand in setting him afloat, it is but fair that you should lend your assistance to get him landed again. I have therefore, my dr. Sir, taken the liberty to send you the inclosed extracts from Mr. Young's letter, and must beg you to have the goodness, when convenient, to give such answers to the queries, and make such observations thereon as your knowledge of the subject may enable you to do. This is a common cause, and I shall therefore make no apology for troubling you with it. The war he says has prevented his taking a trip to this Country that he might form from his own observation an opinion of what is, and what might be done here in the agriculture line. I am etc.[37]

To THE MERCHANTS AND TRADERS OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

[Philadelphia, May 17, 1793.]

Gentlemen: Fully persuaded, that the happiness and best interests of the people of the United States, will be promoted by observing a strict neutrality in the present contest among the powers of Europe, it gives me pleasure to learn, that the measure which I have taken to declare to the world their disposition on this head, has given general satisfaction to the Citizens of Pennsylvania.[38] The friends of humanity will deprecate war, wheresoever it may appear; and we have experienced enough of its evils in this Country to know, that it should not be wan-

[37] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[38] The original address from the Merchants and Traders under date of May 16, 1793, is in the *Washington Papers* and indorsed by Lear as delivered May 17.

tonly or unnecessarily entered upon. I trust therefore, that the good Citizens of the United States will shew to the world, that they have as much wisdom in preserving peace at this critical juncture, as they have heretofore displayed valour in defending their just rights.

To ROBERT TOWNSEND HOOE

Philadelphia, May 17, 1793.

Dear Sir: If you are among the purchasers of Flour, be so good as to let me know what you would give for about 600 barrels, nearly half, superfine, 290 of which are in your own warehouse, the rest at my Mill, but might be delivered as above. all of it, if reported to me truly, is of the best quality, of their respective sorts.

I would allow a credit of Sixty days, or, to enhance the price 90 days for the purchase money; and it is *possible,* matters might be so arranged as never to be drawn out of your hands by me, if the balance due from Wilson to Colville's estate is inadequate to the discharge of what shall be found due therefrom to Mr. Bennett, upon a final settlement, within the period above mentioned.

I have been offered 33/. pr. barl. for the superfine, and 31/. for the fine; but these are so much below the market price here, that I must wait longer. 46/6 case (this Curry.) was, about four days ago, given for a load of superfine flour to be shipped from this port. I have no doubt of, and would thank you for a prompt and frank answer. and am etc.

PS. If you do not buy yourself, be so good as to let me know what price you think I could obtain for it.[39]

[39] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, May 19, 1793.

Mr. Whiting: Your letters of the 10th. and 15th. are both received; and it gives me pleasure to find by them that appearances for good crops are still favorable. I hope they will continue. The Hession fly is among the Wheat in these parts, and doing much injury to it.

When I directed Frank to be employed in prosecuting the painting, it was under an idea, and from what I thought my recollection had furnished that there remained part of what I had requested to be done, yet unfinished; particularly the tops of the necessaries and two Garden houses; for if these were done when I was at home, I own I have been under a mistake. By a recurrence to my former letters respecting this business, you will see what it was I wanted done; and if it be done, I desire no further proceeding in that way at present; as the Mansion house and Offices both (if I mistake not) will want some repairs before they can be painted, and at any rate more skill than Frank possesses to do them properly.

I do not think locust pins would do for fastening the treading floor. 1st. because I think they would work loose, and in that case endanger the legs of the horses. 2dly. because perforating the Joists in so many places, and so near together, might weaken them too much (if the holes were bored deep, and unless this was done the 2½ inch square pieces would soon work loose), and thirdly because it would be extremely tedeous to make the pins and bore the number of holes that would be requird. Spikes will unquestionably come high, as will the Nails also but these expences are incidental to the work, and not to be avoided; but to make the expence as easy as you can, do not entrust too many Nails at a time with the workmen; but compare there calls for,

with the application of them (which will be no difficult matter) and thereby check both waste and embezzlement. The last of which is most to be apprehended. If by taking whole barrels (I mean buying by the barrel) you can get the sorts you want cheaper, it is better to do so, as they will be wanting for other purposes.

If, after returning the Shells which have been borrowed, you should, with what will be left, make your whole stock on hand 1000 bushl., I conceive it will be enough; provided the information you have received of the quantity which will lay a thousd. bricks, be just.

I think you did very right in putting Reuben along with Davis, as the Brick work will require to be first done; but, I wish you to tell Muclus, as from me, that if his pride is not a sufficient stimulus to excite him to industry, and admonition has no effect upon him, that I have directed you to have him severely punished and placed under one of the Overseers as a common hoe negro.

I am satisfied from what you have said, that it would not be proper to bring all my Sheep into one flock, and so to be penned; and if you think drawing off two score of the latter, and most indifferent lambs is proper, it may be done; but not 'till they are weaned, or *actually* seperated with their mothers from the rest of the flock; for unless one of these is done, I am sure, that so far from havg. 40 of the worst disposed of I shall have that number of the choicest taken if from the flock at large, so well am I acquainted with the practices and contrivances of the Butchers; and the inattention and carelessness of the Overseers, to whom they may go, if taken away as they are wanted. I had rather not part with one, unless this apprehension of mine is fully, and compleatly guarded against. All the declining Sheep of every sort might be disposed of, after they can, by good pasture and

attention, be got in order for it. In a word, I wish every possible care may be used to improve the breed of my Sheep; and to keep them in a thriving and healthy state. The same with regard to my Cattle; and there is no measure so likely to effect this as by a judicious choice of the subjects that are bred from. It is owing to this that Bakewell and others, are indebted for the remarkable quality and sales of their Cattle and sheep; the like attention would produce the like effect in this, as well as in other Countries. I am fully persuaded, if some of my *best Cows* were selected and put to (what is called) the Callico Bull, and all the Calves which took their shape and appearance from him set apart for Breeders (for I am told his make is exactly that which Bakewell prefers and aims at getting) that I should, in a few years have a very valuable breed of Cattle. Such conduct will apply equally to Sheep. The quantity of either species of stock, that is Cattle and sheep, ought, in my opinion, to depend wholly upon the support which can be provided, and that, the more you have of both with an eye to this consideration, the more you may have, as they do, in themselves, afford the means, by the manure they make.

If for the sake of making a little butter (for which I shall get scarcely anything) my calves are starved, and die; it may be compared to stopping the spigot, and opening the faucit. that is to say, I shall get two or three shillings by butter, and loose 20 or 30/ by the death or injury done to my calves. Milk sufficient should be left for them, or a substitute provided; otherwise I need not look forward either to the increase or improvement of my Stock.

Not a moment should be lost, after the Wool is taken from the Sheeps backs, in having it spun and wove, that it may be made up in time for the negros clothing: and Grey[40] should

[40] William Gray, the weaver.

be told that if he does not weave it as fast as it is carried to him, that he shall not only loose my custom, but, must look out for some other tenement; because this, and not the Rent, was the inducement for placing him there. However, speaking of the Rent, let me enquire whether he pays it regularly or not?

I have no intention of Renting any of my fishing landings for a term of years. consequently, have no objection to your providing a new and repairing the old Sein, against another Season. And I approve of your laying in a number of Fish Barrels agreeably to your suggestion; especially if you can buy them at what you suppose, which will be much better than making of them by my coopers.

If Mr. Butler is the kind of man you describe him to be, he certainly can be of no use to me; and sure I am, there is no obligation upon me to retain him from charitable motives; when he ought rather to be punished as an imposter: for he well knew the Services he had to perform, and which he promised to fulfil with zeal, activity and intelligence. A stirring, lively and spirited man, who will act steadily and firmly, being necessary; I authorise you to get one if you should part with Butler; for it is indispensably necessary that a stop should be put to that spirit of thieving and house breaking, which has got to such a height among my People, or their associates. As one step towards the accomplishment of which, I desire you will absolutely forbid the Slaves of others resorting to the Mansion house; such only excepted as have wives or husbands there, or such as you may particularly license from a knowledge of their being honest and well disposed. All others, after sufficient forewarning, punish whensoever you shall find them transgressing these orders. It is high time, in my opinion, that you were planting the Potatoes at Mansion house; and rather than suffer the ground to get

grassy, or wait for the return of the Horses which were lent to Mrs. Fanny Washington, (an event quite uncertain, as she was at Doctr. Stuarts the 9th. instant waiting for her Brother in law, who might not come at all) I think you had better get a sufficient number of Plows from the Plantations, and cause it to be got in order without delay.

My mind is impressed with many things, which you have been required to give answers to, which have never been received; and this will forever be the case if you depend upon the mere reading a letter over when you set down to answer it; without first noting on a slate or a piece of waste paper, every point as you come to it, that requires to be touched upon; crossing it when complied with; or to stand uncrossed if you are unable to give an answer at that moment until you can do it at another time. Among these things is one of a very interesting nature to me, namely, an exact experiment and worth of an hundred bushels of Wheat when manufactured, compared with the price of it in grain; that I might decide therefrom whether it would have been best to sell my wheat, or manufacture it into flour, before it was too late to decide. After frequently writing and pressing this matter, I at length got an imperfect statement made from light wheat; but was promised a more perfect one but which has never been recd.; although it is months since it was promised. I mention this as one instance, because, if 100 bushels had, in time, have given me the same evidence of the fact, which I fear the whole quantity of my Crops has done or will do, I should have sold my wheat in grain; which would I presume, have commanded a dollar pr. Bushl. at any time; and this on 4009½ bushls. wch. I perceive has been delivered at the Mill, would have amounted to, in Virga. Curry. £1202. 8. 0; whereas the quantity of flour made from it, viz, 283 barls. of

Superfine, and 317 of fine, the first at 33/ and the other at 31/, which, I believe, is the highest that has been given, comes to no more than £988. 6. difference £214. 2. Now, if the midlings, ship stuff, shorts and Bran does not amount to this difference, all short of it is loss; besides lying out of my money, the hazard of selling the flour, and risk of its souring if I cannot dispose of it to advantage before the warm weather sets in. I have selected this as an important instance of suffering things to escape. I could enumerate many more of no other or greater moment than as they would have gratified me; not being able to see things myself. But the reason why I mention this, (as I am fully satisfied you have every disposition in the world to comply with my wishes) is merely to let you see that it is by trusting too much to your memory, that these things happen. I am persuaded no instance has happened of your asking me a question by letter, or applying for directions without receiving an answer. The reason is, that whenever I set down to write you, I read your letter, or letters carefully over, and as soon as I come to a part that requires to be noticed, I take a short note on the cover of a letter, or piece of waste paper; then read on to the next, noting that in like manner; and so on until I have got through the whole letter and reports. Then in writing my letter to you, as soon as I have finished what I have to say on one of these notes I draw my pen through it and proceed to another, and another, until the whole is done, crossing each as I go on, by which means if I am called off twenty times whilst I am writing, I can never with these notes before me finished, or unfinished, omit anything I wanted to say; and they serve me also as I keep no copies of letters I write to you, as Memorandums of what has been written if I should have occasion at any time to refer to them. I wish you well and am yr. etc.

To THE PROVISORY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF FRANCE

Philadelphia, May 24, 1793.

Very great and good friends and allies: The citizen Ternant had delivered to me the letter wherein you inform me that yielding to his desire to serve his country in the military line, you had determined to recall him from his mission as your Minister plenipotentiary to the U. S.[41] His conduct, during the term of his residence in this Country, has been such as to meet my entire approbation and esteem; and it is with great pleasure I render him the justice of this testimony. in whatever line of service you may hereafter think proper to employ him, I have

[41] Ternant had written to Washington (May 17), that he had been recalled by France. His letter (unsigned) is in the *Washington Papers*. Washington at first wrote the following reply, which, dated merely May, 1793, is in the *Washington Papers:*

"The first intimation, which I received of your mission to the United States, in the capacity you lately filled, gave me pleasure. I anticipated, on your part, a conduct, which, while it was calculated to promote the objects of your duty, would, in the manner, be pleasing to the Government and Citizens of this Country. My anticipations have not been disappointed. Uniformly attentive to the advancement of the Interests confided to your care, (notwithstanding the agitations and vicissitudes experienced in the government of your Country), the tenor of your official and private conduct, throughout the course of your mission, has appeared to me deserving of approbation and has acquired to you a new title to my regard.

"I give you this private and personal mark of my satisfaction and esteem, in remembrance of your Services, as an Officer in the Army of the United States and in consideration of the peculiar and extraordinary circumstances under which you have acted. With sentiments of attachment and regard, I am etc."

Washington has indorsed on the verso of this letter: "This letter was draughted in answr. to the one which covers it. But on reflection was not sent, nor any written reply given to the recalled French Minester; for as much as the motives to that recall were not communicated, and the policy of the measure questionable as the consequences could not be foreseen."

A note in the *Journal of the Proceedings of the President* (May 18) states that Genet presented his credentials at 2 o'clock and Ternant his letter of recall.

Another note, under date of May 24, states that the President observed to the Secretary of State: "that in the present posture of French Affairs, I thought we ought to consider very deliberately on all these measures before we acted; for it was impossible to decide with precision what would be the final issue of the contest, consequently, that this Governmt. ought not to go faster than it was obliged; but to walk on cautious ground."

no doubt he will so conduct himself as to merit well of his Country, and to obtain it's favor and protection.

I assure you, with a sincere participation, of the great and constant friendship, which these U. S. bear to the French nation. of the interest they feel in whatever concerns their happiness and prosperity, and of their wishes for a perpetual fraternity with them, and I pray god to have them and you, very great and good friends and allies, in his holy keeping.[42]

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Philadelphia, May 25, 1793.

An Act making allowances for certain services and contingencies in the collection of the Revenue during the year ending on the 30 day of June 1792.

Whereas it has been found necessary to provide a compensation for the legal admeasurement of Stills during the year ending on the 30 day of June 1792, it is hereby established and declared, that there may and shall be allowed to the Collectors of the Revenue on spirits distilled in the United States and upon Stills, for each and every Still by them respectively measured according to law on or before the said 30 day of June 1792 the sum of Thirty Cents.

And whereas it has also been found necessary that certain services and expences of divers officers of inspection and persons actually employed in the business of the Revenue wch. have unavoidably arisen out of the first operations of the Act of the 3d. day of March 1791, and in the year aforesaid, and certain compensations to the same should be allowed and defrayed.

[42] The draft, in the writing of Jefferson, is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

The Supervisors of the Revenue for the several Districts herein after mentioned are hereby authorised to allow to the officers and persons employed within their respective Districts, for services and Duties actually by them performed and expences paid during the year aforesaid and not yet compensated or defrayed, the sums set against the said Districts respectively, that is to say. In the District of South Carolina a sum not exceeding 600 Dollars

In the District of North Carolina	100.
In the District of Virginia	350.
In the District of Maryland	150.
In the District of Delaware	150.
In the District of Pennsylvania	300.
In the District of New York	400.
In the District of Connecticut	200.[43]

* To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, May 26, 1793.

Mr. Whiting: Your letters of the 17th. and 22d instt. came duly to hand.

Scales, with such weights as you have required, will be sent to you by the first vessel bound to Alexandria: and as there is reason to apprehend a rise in the price of Iron, I propose to send you a Tonn thereof by the same opportunity; let me know therefore, as soon as this is received, the sorts which will suit you best. I shall also send the spike nails which will be wanted for the New Barn, from hence: 1st., because I can, it is supposed, get them cheaper; and 2dly. because they may be had of any size; and I am told not less than 6 inches will do as each piece

[43] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

will be seperate from the other and more apt (being narrow, only 2½ inches Square) to work loose on that account. When you write to me as above, let me know the price of 8d. 10d. 12d. and 20d. Nails in Alexandria as they are sold by the Cask, and by the lb; that I may decide on the propriety of sending them from hence, or buying them there; and the sorts you may want. If they go from hence I shall send whole Casks although I want to know how they are sold by the pound; that being the way by which they are sold here; and necessary for me to know, that I may be enabled to form a comparison of the prices.

When you receive the Scales and Wts., I request that the latter (especially the small ones) may always be under lock when not in use; otherwise, in six months, you will not have one. The Scales in the Store whilst I attended to them formerly, were well supplied with weights.

My last letter gave you my ideas respecting Franks painting so fully that I have nothing to add on that head in this.

I am almost certain that the Morter with which the Bricks at the Barn at Union Farm, and all my other works was not composed of more than 1/3 lime; however, if good judges and practical workmen say it ought (of shells) to be half, I would have it so ordered. It is to be observed however that the lime is of no other use than to cement the particles of Sand together; and these again to the Stone or Brick. It is the Sand therefore, and not the lime, that forms the strength: more therefore than is just sufficient to answer this purpose is not only wasted, but is a real disadvantage as you will often see in work; by the morters falling out, for want of cohesion. Much depends upon the goodness of the Sand, which ought to have as little dust as possible mixed with it; suppose you take a pint of lime and a pint of Sand, and other proportions, and mix them for

experiments, when dry you will see and be able to form an opinion of the just proportions, which will do on a large as well as a smaller scale.

I wanted no fresh proof of the rascallity of Thos. Green. Nor would I retain him in my service, if I could get any other to carry on my business; but such a building as he is about could not, I am sure, be framed by any of my Negro Carpenters.

If the Wheels at Mrs. Washington's Plantation can be repaired, let it be done in preference to buying a new pair, for the reasons formerly mentioned to you.

Mention is made I perceive in the reports, of Carts carrying Bricks at the New building, to the workmen. If I recollect the distance they have to do it, it would seem to me as if the time and labour which must be spent in loading and unloading the Cart would carry them by hand, or in a wheel-barrow without half the loss. I mention this not because I am certain of the fact, but as a matter worthy of attention, and to be decided upon by experience, or at least by calculation.

You say in your letter of the 22d. that the Wheat at Dogue run is now all out of the Straw. I conclude therefore you are now able to give me an acct. of the Crop at each farm; and the yield of each field, and I desire it may be done accordingly. The reservation of a very few bushels will be sufficient for the use of the Mansion house; for my coming home, situated as public matters are at present, depends upon such a variety of things as to render it very precarious; and Mrs. Washington's coming will depend upon the time it is probable I can remain there; which from present appearances can be but short. My wish is to be at Mount Vernon about the last of June (in the time of Harvest), and I shall want to be down again about the Middle of Septr. But whether I shall be able to accomplish both, or

either, is more than I can decide. My stay in either case will be short, and this renders Mrs. Washington coming at all more uncertain. It will be unnecessary therefore to make any extra: preparations for this event, so uncertain in its happening.

Your acct. of the state, in which the Grain and Grass on my farms is, surprizes me; the first being so forward, and the latter so backward. The reverse, in a degree, is the case here; for Clover is now cutting, pretty generally; and not till within these two or three days have I seen a stalk of wheat headed. Is there any indication yet of injury to the wheat from the Easterly winds and wet weather which have happened so frequently this spring, according to your apprehensions, expressed sometime ago? Does the Wheat seem to head well? that is, is the ears long, or short, and free from smut? How does the thin Wheat in No. 7 River Farm, and No. 4 Muddy hole, appear at present? Has the Buckwheat come up thick and does it grow fast? What prospect have you for Oats? and for flax? and how does the young clover come on?

How is the ground in French's large meadow disposed of, or to be disposed of; for I perceive there has been a good deal of plowing in it. And finding the same thing in the Report from Dogue run, as done in the Mill Meadow, with a good deal of grubbing also I wish for the same information respecting this Meadow; being always pleased with every step which has a tendency to lay these grounds to grass.

Although I am very anxious to hasten the New Barn at Dogue run, yet as Hay time and Harvest will not wait, and is of the highest importance to me, every thing else must yield to them: and if I thought it was necessary, I should, in strong terms, urge you to begin the latter as soon as you shall think it safe, by lying a day or two in the swarth. The advantage of

cutting the grain early last year was evident; and will always be found safest and best in all cases, especially where there is a large harvest: the lattr. part of wch., besides shattering much, is often, very often indeed, laid down and lost from the Rains which frequently happen at that season, whilst the straw is rendered of no use; having no substance left in it. I hope, and do expect, that the Overseers will be pointedly chargd this year to see that the ground is raked clean. In Garners fields last year, I was really shocked to see the waste that appeared there. It is not to close harvest soon, but to accomplish it well, that ought to be the aim, and the pride of these people, notwithstanding they receive standing wages instead of shares. I told Garner last year that if the latter had been the case, I was very certain such waste would not have appeared.

Although others are getting out of the practice of using Spirits at Harvest, yet, as my people have always been accustomed to it, a hogshead of Rum must be purchased; but I request at the sametime, that it may be used sparingly. Spirits are now too dear to be used otherwise.

It is not my wish, or desire, that my Negros should have an oz of meal more, nor less, than is sufficient to feed them plentifully. This is what I have repeated to you over and over again; and if I am not much mistaken, requested you to consult the Overseers on this head, that enough, and no more than enough, might be allowed. Sure I am I desired this with respect to Davy. To ask me whether this, or that, quantity is enough, who do not know the number of mouths that are to be fed, is asking a question that it is not possible for me to resolve. Formerly, every Working Negro used to receive a heaping and squeezed peck at top of unsifted meal; and all others (except sucking Children) had half a Peck, like measure, given to

them; with which I presume they were satisfied, inasmuch as I never heard any complaint of their wanting more. Since the meal has been given to them sifted, and a struck peck only, of it, there has been eternal complaints; which I have suspected arose as much from the want of the husks to feed their fowls, as from any other cause, 'till Davy assured me that what his people received was not sufficient, and that to his certain knowledge several of them would often be without a mouthful for a day, and (if they did not eke it out) sometimes two days, before they were served again; whilst they (the negros) on the other hand assured me, most positively, that what I suspected, namely feeding their fowls with it, or sharing it with strange Negros, was not founded. Like complaints were made by the People at Dogue run and at Union farm; which altogether hurt my feelings too much to suffer this matter to go on without a remedy. Or at least a thorough investigation into the cause, and justice of their complaints; for to delay justice is to deny it. It became necessary therefore to examine into the foundation of the complaints, *at once,* and not to wait until a pretext should offer to increase the allowance. Justice wanted no pretext, nor would admit of delay. If the application for more was unjust no alteration *at all,* ought to have been made; for, as I at first observed, I am no more disposed to squander, than to stint; but surely the case is not so difficult but that the true and just quantity may be ascertained; which is all they have a right to ask, or I will allow them. Neither the people at River Plantation, nor any about the M. Hole did, to the best of my recollection make any complaints, but only knowing the quantity of meal which was served to them, and not the number of mouths to be fed with it, I supposed, especially in the latter case (the first having little opportunity of making known their wants, as I was not

more than once or twice on the Farm) that enough was allowed them. I have been thus particular, because I would wish to be clearly and fully understood on this head, that you may act accordingly.

I am surprized to find by your letter that the Gardener has thoughts of leaving me; For when I was last at home, he put the question himself to know if I would retain him; and being answered that I had no desire to part with him, he said he was *very glad of it.* I did not, it is true, nor did he say on what terms; but I took it for granted it would be at the wages of his last year, with a just and proper allowance for the services rendered by his wife, which I always intended, and am still willing to make. It becomes necessary, however, to know immediately and decidedly too, what his intentions are; and when his term expires; that, if he is not disposed to remain upon such and lay as I like, I may take measures in time to supply his place. I wish you therefore (after communicating the unexpectedness of his intention to go) to apply in my name, and know what I have to depend upon. He, like many others, I presume has golden dreams, which nothing but experience can demonstrate to be the vision only of an uninformed, or indigested imagination. Time, and the expences arising from Rent, Provisions to be purchased, Liquor, of which probably he will take too much, Fuell, and a hundred other items of which probably he has never estimated, will convince him, too late perhaps, that he has left a safe and easy birth to embark on a troubled Ocean, where, soon, he may find no rest.

What color and Sex is the Coach mare's Colt with you? Nancy (the other Coach mare) foaled on Whitmonday in like manner. Take great care of the one with you. What is become of those mules set apart for my use, and how do they look? let them be kept well. I am your friend.

To THE MERCHANTS AND TRADERS OF BALTIMORE

[Philadelphia, May 27, 1793.]

Gentlemen: At this eventful period when caution must be united with firmness to preserve to the United States the blessings of peace, and at the same time to maintain our rights as an independent nation, it affords me no small degree of satisfaction to find that my endeavours to promote these objects, by declaring the neutrality of the U. States, have met your approbation.[44] While the measures of this Government are taken upon Constitutional ground, and have for their object the public good, it would be injurious to our enlightened Citizens not to rely upon their countenance and support in carrying them into effect.[45]

To ROBERT TOWNSEND HOOE

Philadelphia, May 29, 1793.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 23d. inst. came to my hands by the post of yesterday.

I agree to take your offer for my flour, and will order Mr. Whiting (my manager) to see and make arrangements with you for the delivery in Alexandria of the part which is at my mill. I wish, however, as Hay-time and harvest is, or soon will be heavy upon me, it had suited you equally to have received it at my mill or in the river opposite thereto.

I accept your offer Sir, because I am unable at present to attend to the markets, and not because flour has experienced the temporary fall mentioned in your letter of the above date, for I

[44] An address from the merchants, the original of which is in the *Washington Papers*, is dated May 22.

[45] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. On May 27 Lear forwarded this answer to Samuel Sterrett, chairman of the meeting.

consider that as no more than the result of a momentary circumstance; it being well known, to *me* at least, that the real demand for this article in the European markets is encreasing. Want of vessels to take it off at the moment you wrote might have occasioned a fall; that has been the case here at times, and within a few days it would be up again higher than ever.

I thank you for the information of Shepherds intention to apply to the Court of Loudoun County for the purpose of having some of my land on Difficult-run condemned for his benefit. I had heard of it before, and on my way to this City last October, I wrote a letter to Colo. Powell on the occasion, of which the enclosed is a copy, but having received no acknowledgment thereof I presume it never reached his hands. therefore if you can aid me in doing what is there required of him, it will be rendering a very acceptable service to, Dear Sir, etc.[46]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, June 1, 1793.

Sir: To call upon Mr. Hammond without further delay for the result of the reference to his Court concerning the surrender of the Western Posts, or to await the decision of the trial at Richmond on the subject of British debts before it be done, is a question on which my mind has been divided for sometime.

[46] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

On May 31 Lear wrote to the Secretary of State: "By the President's command T. Lear has the honor to return to The Secretary of State the draughts and copies of letters which he sent to the President this day. And to inform the Secretary, that the President is so much indisposed that he does not believe he shall be able to meet the Gentlemen at his House tomorrow (the President having had a high fever upon him for 2 or 3 days past, and it still continuing unabated); he therefore requests that the Secretary of State will request the attendance of the Heads of the other Departments and the Attorney General at his Office tomorrow, and lay before them for their consideration and opinion such matters as he would have wished to have brought to their view if they had met at the President's, and let the President know the result of their deliberation thereon." This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

If your own judgment is not *clear* in favor of one, or the other, it is my desire, as the heads of the Departments are *now* together, that you would take their opinion thereupon, and act accordingly.[47]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, June 2, 1793.

Mr. Whiting: Your letter of the 29th. Ulto. is received.

It gives me pain to find by it, that the Rains which you have had has gullied the fields more than they were. I wish, as I did on former information of this kind, that, if it be practicable, these breaches could be repaired, always, as soon as they happen. Unless this is done, in time, they grow worse and worse, until the fields are disfigured, and in a manner ruined by them.

If you have had as much rain with you, as has been here the week past, your apprehensions on acct. of the Wheat will have undergone no diminution: for I think the Sun has not been seen here since Monday last, raining more or less the whole time, with the Wind invariably at East. Is there any danger of the grain lodging? that is the case here. I am affraid Rust will get among it also.

Does your Corn stand well, and grow fast? and have you been able with so much wet to keep it clean?

It is the duty of the Miller, the moment he has closed his annual manufacture, to render me an exact Acct. thereof; and

[47] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On June 1 Lear entered the following in the *Journal of the Proceedings of the President:* "He [the Secretary of State] also informed me that the Secty of War, the Atty Genl. and himself had met this day at his office on the subjects mentioned yesterday; but had come to no determination thereon as the Secretary of the Treasury was not present; that he should send the papers &c. for his (the Secy) perusal and opinion. I suggested to the Secretary of State that it wd. be proper for the communications from M. Genet respecting the debt, to be referred by me to the Secy. of the Treasury to report thereon; in order that the report might be given in answer to Mr. Genet and the proceedings in the business be regular."

this, let him know I expect he will do without delay, and with exactitude, with his signature annexed to it. charging the Mill with every bushel of Wheat that has been received into it, and from whence; and at the Alexandria price for large Crops: and crediting it with all the Superfine and fine flour that has been made; the first at 34/. and the other at 32/. pr. barl. with all the middlings, ship stuff, Shorts and Bran, at what they have actually sold, or would sell for. Such an acct. as this, is the only *true* criterion by which to decide whether I have gained or lost by manufacturing my Crop. The trial of 100 bushels was only for an experiment, to enable me to judge *before hand,* whether it would have been best to have sold, or manufactured my wheat. Nor is cleaning of it in the manner you speak of, a way to make the experiment a fair one. A hundd. bushels of such wheat as would have been indisputably merchantable in Alexandria, without extra: cleaning to bring it to 60 lbs pr. bushl. or any other given weight, ought to have been the exact quality for the experiment; because every oz of this, whether shrivelled or light, dust or what not, would have gone into the measure, and so much pr. Bushl. or pr. lb. would have been allowed for it at that place; whereas if you extract *all this* and make up the quantity afterwards 100 bushls., the profit by Manufacturing will unquestionably appear greater than it is in reallity: because what is blown away by the different operations for cleaning in the mill is a deduction from the wheat if sold in grain, and no addition to it when manufactured. I mention this to guard you against deception in the experiment you were about to make with 100 bushels. (cleaned in the manner you speak of) and which you had prepar'd for grinding. repeating again, that to ascertain this point *now,* or at any time hereafter, the wheat with which the experiment is made, should receive no other cleaning than such as to give it a good character with the Merchat., if sold in grain; because all that is blown out of it at

the mill is lost; unless the Miller's Poultry, or my Hogs derive a benefit from it. In my last I informed you of my intention of sending the spike nails from hence. These, with a Tonn of Iron, Medicines, and several other things will go by the first Vessel that will sail after I receive your answer to the queries therein contained.

When Reuben finishes the work he is now engaged in, have his trowel taken from him and put into the Store. The same might be done with Mucluss. at least if not Davis's or I shall have new ones to buy whenever they engage in fresh work; for these things, if not lost or stolen, are frequently sold for their own emolument. How does the brick work of the New Barn advance? Is the whole wall raised equally? and in that case, how many course of Brick is it up?

Perhaps it might have been better if the Shells were good, and at the landing, to have taken them; unless you were under engagements to the first man, because, if they are removed out of the tides way, and the washings of the Road, they will receive no injury from time; and the plague we have had hitherto to get *any,* and the expence of Stone lime which I have been driven to the necessity of buying at an *enormous* price, would make one wish to avoid the like difficulties again. Colo. Washington wrote to me a few days ago, informing me that the man he had engaged to supply me, had delivered one load of lime and two of shells, about, as he supposed, 500 bushls. each load; and wished to know how many more I should want; adding, that Branson (I think that is the mans name) complains that 25/ for live shells as good as his, was not enough; wanting 27/6 for what he might thereafter deliver. I answered, if the shells were really live ones and good, I should not stand for the difference; and thought one load more might answer all my purposes; but you may take two according to the experience you have had of the consumption to the 1000 bricks, and perhaps it

had better be done at *all events* as a store of what can neither waste nor spoil, will be no sore.

I am not, from recollection, able to find out what Green is sawing Plank for. If my memory serves me, all the Plank for the New Barn was to have been purchased, except the 2½ Inch square pieces for the treading floor. Worthless as he is, I am sorry to hear of the accident that has happened to him, and hope, however appearances might have been at the time, that he will not, ultimately, loose more than the finger; which you say is actually off.

Perceiving by the Reports that the Ditchers have been employed in repairing the Post and Rail fence from the Tumbling Dam to the Mill, I hope they have done it well. It is the only attonement they have it in their power to make me for the villainous manner in which it was done at first; and for which they ought to have been severely punished; but not more so than him, under whose superintendence they worked.

Having my Book of accts. with me, I find Wm. Gray stands regularly charged with the Rents; but I find also, that by the Settlement made the 5th. of October last, by my deceased Nephew, in which he (Gray) is credited for all his work for fowls &ca. up to the 13th. of Septr., that he was indebted to me £13.15.11. besides some expence for slays over and above the money he gave Osborne to buy them with. I mention this matter, because, it is more than probable he will not be the first to do it himself; but under your supposed unacquaintedness with the fact, will be applying for money as fast, and to the amount of his weaving, without ever casting an eye back, or thinking of paying off old scores with it.

I never was more surprized than to find only 1457 lbs of wool from the Shearing of 568 Sheep (2½ pound pr. Fleece only). From the beginning of the year 1784 when I returned from the Army, until shearing time of 1788, I improved the

breed of my Sheep so much by buying, and selecting the best formed, and most promising Rams and putting them to my best Ewes, by keeping them always well culled and clean, and by other attentions, that they averaged me as will appear by Mr. Lears Acct. (my present Secretary, and) who then lived with me, rather over than under five pounds of washed wool each. And in the year 1789, being requested by Mr. Arthur Young to send him a fleece of my Wool, I desired my nephew to *see* that Mr. Bloxham took one from a Sheep of average appearance at Shearing time, and send it to New York where I then was, to be forwarded to that Gentleman. This was accordingly done, and weighed 5¼. How astonished must I be then at the miserable change that has taken place since; and but for the caution I gave you to guard against the roguery of my Negros who, formerly, have been detected in similar practices, I should have concluded at once that between the time of taking the Wool from the Sheep and the delivery of it into your hands a very large toll indeed had been taken from each fleece; for I do not suppose (for fear of detection) that *whole* fleeces would be taken; the number from each Farm being known. I hope, and expect they will be got up again to their former standard, as I know it to be practicable with care and attention to do it; particularly with respect to the Rams. It is painful to receive no report unaccompanied with the death of some of these Animals; and I believe no man is more unlucky in the deaths, or in the accidents to Horses than I am; for I am continually loosing them by one means or another.

Colo. Fitzgerald has been obliging enough to tell me, that if, at any time, you should need information in any matter that he can aid you, he will give it with great pleasure. As he is a well informed man and an old acquaintance of mine, I wish you to avail yourself of his offer. With respect to my Tobacco, he is of opinion, that if it is of the quality I am taught to believe

it to be, was put up dry, and looked well when last examined, that I had better remove it to the Inspection at George town at which, if it would pass, I might expect 40 pr Ct. more than where it is. I have answered, that I would desire you to call on him the first time you go to Alexandria with such information on these several points as you may know yourself and can obtain from those who Inspected it in the first instance, to be well ascertained before any attempt be made to remove the Tobacco, for the Inspectors at George town are very strict, and no Tobacco that is not of a good quality, well handled, and put up dry will pass, I ought therefore to be pretty certain that mine will stand these tests; otherwise I should get out of the frying pan into the fire.

By the reports (if I mistake not) the Roan, or which may perhaps distinguish her more clearly, the Mad Mare, has had a Mule Colt this Spring; but I do not know whether it is by the Young Jack or the Knight of Malta, nor is it very material if the colour suits. This with the Spring Mules from the two Coach Mares, must promise three very fine ones; if a fourth of proper colour from a good, and well looking Mare either of this or the last spring can be selected, it is my wish that every possible care be taken of them and their dams, to keep the first in the highest order. Has the lame Chariot Mare (left at home two years ago, and now I believe at River Farm) a Colt? from her one would be valuable. There is another valuable Mare wch I have drove, and I believe is at the Mansion Ho. that must furnish a good Colt if she has any. I request also that those wht. were selected last year may meet with proper care and attention, as I am exceedingly anxious to get a set to drive but fear I never shall, for it appears to me, as if they were converted to the Plow as soon as they arrive at the age of three, and I left to have recourse to a younger set, and so on; which

practice, if continued must cut me out forever. I wish you well and am etc.

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

June 3, 1793.

Sir: The question of admitting modifications of the debt of the U. S. to France, having been the subject of consultation with the heads of the Departments and the Attorney General, and an unanimous opinion given thereon which involves the enclosed propositions from the French Minister, you will be pleased, under the form of a report to me,[48] to prepare what may serve as an Answer, making it conformable to the opinion already given.[49]

To JOHN FITZGERALD

Philadelphia, June 3, 1793.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 25 ulto. came duly to hand. Presuming that my letter to you of the 28 of April had either

In a letter from Martha Washington to Frances Bassett Washington (June 2) the President wrote the following: "The President says you are already acquainted with his sentiments on the propriety of renting out your land and negroes in Berkeley. As it seems to be the intention to settle another plantation there, he thinks that the negroes, with such as you may incline to move up from Fairfax, had better be divided between the two places and each rented to some man of character and responsibility, who will be able to give security for the performance of the agreement. This will ease you of much trouble and reduce your income to a certainty, which never will be the case under Overseers at a distance, as you seem to experience already. He thinks articles should be drawn up by some professional and skilful person: and every precaution taken to prevent waste of the timber, or the cutting down too much thereof, and no abuse of either the Land or negroes be permitted. As to the term for which you would let the Estate, it must depend upon your own view of the subject, the Will and the advice of your friends there, who are much better acquainted with the circumstances attending the Estate, and the utility of a long or shorter term, than he is at this distance!" This insertion is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[48] Hamilton's report, dated June 8, discussed the situation and concluded thus: "The motives which dissuade from the adoption of the proposed measure, may it is conceived, be the more readily yielded to from the probability that the utility of it to France might not, on experiment, prove an equivalent for the sacrifices, which she might have to make in the disposition of the bonds." This report is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[49] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

miscarried, or that you were employed in the investigation of the Shenandoah (of which I recollected some mention had been made). And having occasion to write to Colo. Hooe on other business, I mentioned to him the Flour I had for sale; and have, since, accepted the offer he made me for it, precisely what you thought might be obtained.

The approaching heats, added to the uncertainty of a sufficiency of American bottoms to carry off the Crop, inclined me more to the acceptance of the Colonel's offer than to await a better market, altho' I am certain the demand for this Article will encrease rather than diminish in the course of the summer.

Altho' Mr. Whiting (as a farmer) can have no adequate knowledge of Tobacco; yet, as he has seen some of mine opened lately, and can point you to the Inspectors who examined it, and who ought to know if it is of a quality to suit the Georgetown market, I have by this days post directed him to call upon you with such information as he can give or obtain; after receiving which, and making the enquiries promised in your last I would thank you for your opinion on what is best to be done with the Tobacco, the sale of which I am not anxious to hasten if it is in good order and in no danger of suffering. But query, Can *inspected* Tobacco on the Virginia side be removed to warehouses on the other?

I thank you for the tender of your services on this and other occasions, and am with sincere esteem etc.[50]

To WARNER WASHINGTON, JUNIOR

Philadelphia, June 4, 1793.

Sir: I have been too much indisposed since the receipt of your letter of the 31st ulto. to give it an earlier acknowledgment.

[50] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

Placing, as you do, the want of supplies to some interruption of the communication with your father, I promise, if you will entrust a letter to him under my cover, that it shall reach his hands in ten days from the date.

I prefer doing this to advancing money myself (even if the latter was convenient for me), first, because I have good reasons to believe that the allowance made you, by your father, is as much as he conceives necessary, or as can reasonably be affored by him, beyond which your expenditures ought not to extend. and secondly, because I think there would be an impropriety in the act of another to furnish the means for a young man to exceed these limits. I am etc.[51]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

June 4, 1793.

Dear Sir: If you see any objections to the propositions[52] contained in the enclosed pray furnish me with them as soon as convenient as I want to return an answer with out delay.[53] Yours &ca.[54]

To WARNER WASHINGTON[55]

Philadelphia, June 5, 1793.

Dear Sir: Your son having informed me that he had not heard from you for these four or five months past, and was thereby destitute of the usual supply of money to answer his expenditures here, I have promised him to convey a letter to you if he would commit it to my charge. This he has done, and

[51] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[52] The proposition was Hamilton's proposal to open "a further loan of 3 millions of florins" in Holland.

[53] Jefferson's answer is dated June 5 and is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[54] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[55] The second Warner; born in 1751.

I have now the pleasure to enclose it. With my compliments and best wishes to yourself and family, I am etc.[56]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

[June 5, 1793.]

Dear Sir: The Secretary of the Treasury left the enclosed today (without my seeing him) and is to call tomorrow morning to know how it is approved, or what alterations to make.

Whether to assign, or not to assign reasons of Non-complying with the French Ministers proposals is one question, and the footing on which to decline doing it another. I wish you to consider these and if it is not convenient for you to take Breakfast with me at half past Seven tomorrow, to send in the Report, with your sentiments thereon by that time.[57] I sent to your Office for this purpose today but you had just left the City. Yours always.[58]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Philadelphia, June 6, 1793.

Sir: Upon a mature consideration of your communication to me of the 3d. instant, recommending a still further Loan in Holland, if obtainable, to the amount of 3,000,000 florins, and stating, that in case the recommendation should meet my ideas, my special approbation thereof would be proper, I have thought it necessary, in order to make the subject clear to my mind before any steps are taken in it, to request you to give me information on the following points, Vizt.[59]

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[56] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[57] Jefferson's written response is dated June 6. A press copy of it is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[58] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[59] Hamilton's reply, dated June 15, is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

1st. Whether all the monies, borrowed under the Acts of the 4. and 12. of Augt., 1790, have been expended on their respective objects? If not, what is the balance?

2d. Under which of the two Laws do you propose that a loan should be opened?

3d. If under one, or the other, or both, what is the balance remaining unborrowed, of the two sums allowed to be borrowed?

4th. To what use is the money, proposed to be borrowed, to be applied?[60]

To THE FREEHOLDERS AND OTHER INHABITANTS OF SALEM, IN MASSACHUSETTS

[Philadelphia, June 7, 1793.]

Gentlemen: Placed in the situation I am by the free voice of my fellow Citizens, it becomes a duty, pleasing as it is strong, to pursue such measures as appear best calculated to promote their true interests. Under this impression I issued the late proclamation,[61] declaring the neutrality of the U States in the present contest between France and other European powers. In making this declaration, I was persuaded that I spoke the wishes of my countrymen, without violating any political or moral obligation. And the evidences of satisfaction which have been exhibited on this occasion, as well as the assurances of good citizens to use their influence in preserving the peace and prosperity of our infant republic, afford a new proof of that liberal and enlightened sentiment which has been so often and so honorably manifested by them on great occasions.[62]

[60] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[61] The Salem address, dated May 31, 1793, is in the *Washington Papers*.

[62] This answer, in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*, is undated. June 7 is tentatively assigned.

To THE MECHANICAL SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE

[Philadelphia, June 7(?), 1793.]

Gentlemen: The language of your Address[63] shews that you have rightly estimated the purposes for which our general Government was established. And so evident are the benefits resulting to the industrious Citizens of every description throughout the United States from the operation of equal Laws, and from the security and tranquility with which they have pursued their various avocations, under a Government of their own choice, that it becomes the duty of those who are entrusted with the management of their public affairs, to endeavour, by all proper means, to continue and promote those invaluable blessings. And that the happiness and true interests of a people are best secured by observing such a line of conduct as will, while they discharge their political obligations, preserve to their Country peace with other Nations, and cultivate the good will of mankind towards them, I trust no one will deny. If the Citizens of the United States have obtained the character of an enlightened and liberal people, they will prove that they deserve it, by shewing themselves the true friends of mankind and making their Country not only an Asylum for the oppressed of every Nation, but a desirable residence for the virtuous and industrious of every Country.[64]

*To WILLIAM THORNTON

Saturday, June 8, 1793.

The president of the United States is much obliged by Doctr. Thornton's polite attentions, and prays him to accept his thanks for the Treatise on the Elements of written language.

[63] The address of the Mechanical Society of Baltimore is dated June 4 and is in the *Washington Papers*. The date assigned to the answer is tentative.

[64] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

The President is sorry to hear of the Doctors indisposition. A speedy and perfect recovery is wished.[65]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

June 9, 1793.

Mr. Whiting: In due course of Post I have received your letters of the 31st. of May and 5th. instant; and was equally surprized and concerned to find by the last, that your health was in the declining, and precarious State you describe it to be, because, you had not given the least intimation thereof in any other letter, since my departure from Mount Vernon. I can only repeat now, what I have often done before, that it is by no means my desire that you should expose yourself in the discharge of my business; or use greater exertions than your strength will bear; or more exercise than is good for your health; or, in a word, to attempt anything that the Doctr. shall not think proper for you: for having a full view of the state of my Plantations, in your mind, and knowing the design for each, you can, from the Weekly reports (which may be made to you oftener by the Overseers, if necessary) give such directions as would naturally result from them. which is the best expedient, both for yourself and me, that occurs to me at this moment, being unable since the receipt of your letter to think of a single person whose qualifications would fit him for the Superintendence of my business. If any such has occurred to you, I would thank you for naming him, hoping, nevertheless, that occasion will not require one; but having a proper character in view may not be amiss, whether wanting or not. From my own experience (and the measure was recommended to me by eminent Physicians), wearing flannel next the skin is the best cure for, and preventative of the Rheumatism I ever

[65] From the *Thornton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

tried. And for your other complaint, which you suppose to be in your lungs, a vegitable and milk diet I should suppose would be proper; avoiding as much as possible animal food. Of this however the Doctors must be a better judge; and if you chuse to have any in these parts consulted and will state, or get your case stated, I will lay it before the person highest in reputation here as a Physician, and send you the result. I shall *endeavor* to be at Mount Vernon by the first of next month; but the nature of public business is, and likely to remain such, that I dare not promise at that, or any other time, to be there; and happen when it will, my stay must be short, as I cannot be long absent from the seat of the Government whilst matters are so delicately situated as they are at present. If you have, or could procure a few Oats against I arrive they would be acceptable to my Horses. I shall bring only 4 or at most five with me; nor shall I be able to stay more than 10 days at farthest.

You may tell the Gardener that as I am not fond of changing, and as I am sure he would very soon find his error in leaving me, I will allow him £30 pr. Ann that is to say 100 dollars provided he will engage to stay two years at that rate; will allow him the same perquisite of the Garden when I am from home he now enjoys; and a horse Six times a year to ride to Alexandria provided he is not kept out of nights. With respect to his wife, after increasing his own wages so considerably, I must be well informed what services she is to render before I shall agree to make any further allowance to him, in addition for her; for I should think that he himself, or the woman, or any other who is actuated by a just and honest way of thinking, will readily acknowledge that giving her Provisions is an adequate compensation for the trouble of weighing out, and receiving in, the work of the Spinners once a week, if all the intermediate time is devoted to her own business. If she does

more than this for me, the case differs from my conception of it; and from what I had in view at the time she was first spoken to, for then it was my full expectation that after the 4th. of March I should return to a permanent residence at Mount Vernon, and in that case to have made her the Housekeeper; which, from the nature of the Office would have occupied her whole time, and of course would have entitled her to a proportionate reward. But if she has not done, nor is likely to do more than weigh out and receive in Work, and receives her provision for this, there is no cause that I am able to discover, for enhancing *their* wages on that acct.

The weather cannot have been more wet with you, than it has been here until thursday last; since then it has been dry with a hot sun, which will recover the looks of the Corn if you can, in addition, extricate it from the Grass and Weeds. As you still think that the Easterly winds we have had will injure the Wheat, let me know how you expect it will be effected by them: whether by smut, Rust, white heads, or something else. I see nothing now to injure the grain except by its not filling; by its taking the rust; or lodging.

As it was intended that the first sown buck wheat should ripen a sufficiency of seed to sow the ground a second time, I should hope this second operation would recover the ground from the bad condition it has been thrown into by the preceeding Rains, and prepare it finely for Wheat; tho' it may occasion the sowing of it later than my inclination would wish it to be. My fears are more alive against damage from drought, if the Easterly Winds cease, than from the rains which they have occasioned. a long drought after so much wet would be very injurious to the Corn; second cutting of grass; &ca.; besides baking the ground so hard as to render it impossible, in a manner, to work it properly. If this should happen, let the ground

intended for the reception of grass be well broken with Rollers before sowing, that it may be laid level and smooth.

I wish with all my heart the Potatoes at Mansion house were planted, and that the Crop may be productive. It is growing full late for this business, and of course hazardous, wch. I regret more as I am resolved, hence forward, to plant them between the Corn rows at Dogue run farm, if at no other. I have never yet seen anything to induce me to believe that the crop of Corn is lessened thereby, and sure I am the Wheaten Crop which follows, is not; of course the Potatoes is all gain.

I would not have you ask the white thorn plants from Mr. Thomson Mason as matter of favor; but if you should, at any time, fall in with him, it could give no offence to ask if he would sell those which grow in the open field adjoining numbers 7 and 8 at River farm; and, if the price is reasonable to buy them.

When I consented to give up the first set of mules that were chosen for my carriage, it was because I was told they did not match well, or promise much, but that others were coming on, from which a *very good* set could be drawn. It is after these latter I have been enquiring, and wish care to be taken.

I do not conceive that the strength of a joist, or sleeper, consists in its width but in the depth; however, if Green thinks those designed for the treading floor are too slight the evil is easily remedied by putting in more of them, that is, placing them nearer together.

What is the matter with long James that he is for ever on the sicklist? Is there any apparent cause for it? by this I mean, has he fevers, a dissintary, or any thing that will speak for itself? or, is the complaint, *Pains,* wch. may be real, or feigned; the last of which can, at any time, be assumed, and very often is.

By Ellwood, who talks of Sailing on tuesday, but who will not in all probability leave this before Thursday, if then, you

will receive Sundry parcels according to the enclosed list, which may be brought from Alexandria when the Boat goes up with flour to Colo. Hooe.

I sincerely wish you may be perfectly restored to health being your well wisher and friend.

To FRANCES BASSETT WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, June 10, 1793.

My dear Fanny: Your Aunt has lately received a Letter from you, to which an answer was given about a week ago.

As this answer, so far as it respecting the renting of the Estate in Berkeley, of which you are possessed, was dictated by me, in a hurry, I will now give you my ideas more at large on that subject; altho' they will still appear, from my immersion in other business, to carry with them strong marks of indigestion.

The Will of my deceased Nephew, if I have sufficient recollection of it, directs a second plantation to be settled in Berkeley County. This may, and I think ought to be done in conformity therewith; and in so doing it might be well to include some, if not all the hands which are in Fairfax County, as well to comply with the dictates of the Will, as because there are too many at the latter place to be employed to good profit: the Farm being small, poor and worn. As a mere small grain, or grass farm, it might be turned to good account, if an industrious man who would work constantly himself was fixed on it, with a negro fellow and boy *only;* with an allowance of four plough horses, two ploughs and a yoke of oxen, with other stock proportioned thereto. This force would be adequate to the cultivation of the whole of that Farm, in small Grain and grass; and might raise as much (and ought to do no more) Indian Corn as would suffice for themselves. And if you found it *more* convenient, the

old woman there, for whom I presume no hire could be obtained, with such young Children as have no Mothers living and others that cou'd not be well disposed of, might be placed there; and would be at hand to receive your own attentions.

The force I have mentioned would be able to put in as much *small* grain annually, as the size of the Farm would admit, to be kept in proper order; and in case you should do what you have talked of doing for the sake of your Childrens education; that is, to live in Alexandria, would furnish you with poultry, pigs, lambs, &c., which, if always to be bought from the Butchers and others, would be more expensive than you at present have any conception of.

I have not sufficient knowledge of the Estate in Berkeley to give any other advice respecting it, than merely to say that renting it instead of keeping it in your own hands, has a preference in my mind for many reasons, which might be assigned; and as the Will enjoins a division of the Land, I should suppose the negroes had better be allotted to each parcel, and rented therewith. But of this you, with the advice of your friends on the spot, must be a better judge than I am. Among these George S. Washington, who has already acted the part you are about to do, will be able to give you useful information, as by this time he may have perceived the good, or felt the inconveniences of the measures he pursued. It would, however, seem best to me, that the Lands and Negroes should go together, in the manner already mentioned. The latter might hire for more singly, but then the trouble of collecting would also be greater; nor could there be the same attention paid to them as when together, and under the immediate eye of your brother-in-law.

You will readily see the necessity of insisting upon ample security for the performance of whatever agreement you may enter into; for the Land, Negroes and stock thereon will be

none, because they are your own already; and as the transaction is important, and will be interesting to yourself and the Children, I advise you to pay a Lawyer of note to draw the articles, rather than hazard an imperfect instrument, which may be turned to your disadvantage hereafter.

Besides the usual covenants to compel payments when they become due, there ought to be a clause making all sums in arrear to carry interest. This will be some compensation for the want of punctuality; but forfeiture of the Lease, in case of non-performance of the conditions, should be strongly expressed, as it will be the principle hold you will have on the Tenant. Reservation of Wood-land, limitation with respect to clearing, restraint upon selling or disposing of any timber or Wood except for the purposes of the plantations, and prevention of all sorts of abuse. Keeping the Houses, fences and meadows in order. Care of the Negroes in sickness and in health; clothing them properly, and feeding them as Negroes usually are, are all matters which should be noticed in the Instrument. Nor ought there to be any transfer of the Lease, or re-hire of the Negroes without your consent first had and obtained *in writing*.

The number of years for which you would part with the Estate deserves consideration, and a consultation of circumstances, of which you can judge as well or better than I. My own opinion however, is, that it ought not to go for more than five or seven; for less than three, I presume no good tenant would take it. The Horses, Cattle and other stock, together with the implements of the Farm, you might either sell, or let go with the places at the valuation of two, or more judicious and impartial men, to be returned in equal numbers, and in the specific articles of equal value, when the places are surrendered; paying in the mean while a regular annual interest on the aggregate valuation as above.

The peculiar situation of our public affairs is such, and likely to remain such, that I see no prospect of my being able to leave the Seat of Government but for a mere flying visit home; which I am more than ever called upon to do as, by a letter received on Saturday, it appears that Mr. Whiting is in a confirmed consumption, and so much reduced as to be scarcely able to mount a horse. What I am to do under a circumstance of this kind, I really know not; not being able, in the short time I have had to reflect upon this disagreeable event, to call to mind a single character (if to be obtained) that would answer my purposes.

I shall strive hard to be at Mount Vernon by the first of next month, but to say positively I shall accomplish it is more than I dare do. My stay there cannot exceed, if it should amount to ten days.

I request you to remember me in the most affectionate manner to my Brother, Sister and the rest of the family; my love to the Children; compliments to Mr. Warner Washington and family if you should see them. In all which your Aunt, Nelly &c. join me. With much truth I am, your sincere friend and affte. relation.[66]

To THOMAS JANNEY

Philadelphia, June 10, 1793.

Sir: Colo. Lowrey informs me that you are possessed of a horse which he had recommended, previous to your owning him, to be purchased by the President; and that you are willing to part with him for one hundred and twenty-five pounds. Altho' this price far exceeds what the President had an idea of giving for him, yet as he is desirous of obtaining a good covering horse to put on his Estate at Mount Vernon, and this has been highly recommended by Colo. Lowrey, he thinks it is

[66] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

probable he may purchase him; but he will not engage to do so until he sees and approves of him himself. And if you will have him brought to Philadelphia immediately after receiving this letter, the President will take him if he should meet his approbation; but in case he should not like him at the price fixed, he will pay the expence of bringing him here, and returning again to Trenton. I am etc.[67]

To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

Philadelphia, June 12, 1793.

Dr. Sir: Major Jackson, with whom you are very well acquainted, is about to embark for Europe on business unknown to me, having made no enquiry respecting it.

It is natural to do so, and of course I presume he will call upon you, in which case, I beg leave to recommend him to your civilities as an old acquaintance.

With very great esteem etc.[68]

*To THE SECRETARIES OF STATE, TREASURY, AND WAR

June 12, 1793.

Gentlemen: As you are about to meet on other business, it is my desire that you would take the enclosed application into consideration. It is not my wish, on one hand, to throw unnecessary obstacles in the way of gratifying the wishes of the applicants. On the other, it is incumbent on me to proceed with regularity. Would not the granting a Patent then, which I

[67] This letter is signed "Tobs. Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[68] Practically the same letter was sent this same day to Thomas Pinckney, and Jackson furnished with a certificate of service. Both this letter to Pinckney and a copy of the certificate are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

believe is always the concluding Act, and predicated upon the Survey (as a necessary document) have too much the appearance of placing the Cart before the horse? And does not the Law enjoin something on the Attorney General of the U. States previous to the Signature of the President? What can be done with propriety I am willing to do. More I ought not to do.[69]

*To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, June 13, 1793.

Gentlemen: This letter will be put into your hands by Mr. Lear, who is well known to one, or more of you.

He has it in contemplation to make (in conjunction with others) a considerable Mercantile establishment in the Federal City; if he should be able to obtain such a site therein, and upon such terms, as will answer his, and the views of his associates. What these are he can best explain to you; and you from the nature of your resources, will be better able than I, to decide on the admissibility of them.

From eight years intimate acquaintance with Mr. Lear. From his knowledge of business, good sense, penetration and caution, I am certain that any proposals made by him, and acceded to by you, will be executed with punctuality. Friendship and justice require this declaration from me, on his behalf. but, as I have intimated before, it is with you to decide, whether the proposals are such as to comport with your general plan for the advancement of the City.

With sentiments of very great esteem etc.[70]

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[69] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

[70] From *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

To THE MARQUISE DE LAFAYETTE

Philadelphia, June 13, 1793.

Dr. Madam: While I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13 of March, I can, with the greatest truth, assure you, that I feel a sincere sympathy in your afflictions on account of M. de la Fayette. And to shew you that I have not been unmindful of your condition; and how earnestly I have been disposed to alleviate your sufferings, as far as is in my power, I enclose you duplicates of two letters which I had the honor of writing to you on the 31st. of January and 16. of March. To these I can only add my most ardent prayers, that you may be again united to M. de la Fayette, under circumstances that may be joyful to you both; and that the evening of that life, whose morning has been devoted to the cause of liberty and humanity, may be crowned with the best of heaven's blessings.

With sentiments of sincere attachment to yourself and your dear offspring, I am etc.[71]

To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

(Private)

Philadelphia, June 13, 1793.

Dear Sir: I have before me your Letters of the 28 of Decr. 1792, 6th. and 10th. of Jany. and 14th. of February 1793. To do anything more at present than acknowledge the receipt of these letters, and thank you most cordially for the information and opinions contained in them, is out of my power, (especially as Notice of the opportunity is short:), for you will readily believe, my dr. sir, that, what with the current affairs of the Govern-

[71] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

ment, the unpleasant aspect of matters on our Indian frontiers, and the momentous occurences in Europe, I am not only pressed with the quantity of business; but that the nature of a great part of it is peculiarly delicate and embarrassing.

Mr. Jefferson will improve the present opportunity to give you full information respecting our public affairs; and I shall take the advantage of it to send to your care the enclosed packet for Mde. la Fayette, which contains duplicates of letters which I have written in answer to her's; and which I will thank you to convey to her by as safe an opportunity as can be met with, and even if that opportunity should be a late one, it would be better than to trust it to an uncertain conveyance.

With sentiments of sincere regard etc.[72]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Philadelphia, June 14, 1793.

Sir: By the Gazettes of to day, I perceive a Vessel is just arrived in this Port from New Orleans, on board of which are several of our Citizens; who, having passed down the Mississippi, are now on their return to the Ohio, their place of residence.

It is of great importance that this Government should be fully informed of the Spanish force in the Floridas, the number of their Posts, and the strength and situation of each; together with such other circumstances as would enable it to adopt corrispondent measures in case we should, in spite of our endeavors to avoid it, get embroiled in a dispute with that Nation. It would be too improvident, might be too late, and certainly would be disgraceful, to have this information to obtain when

[72] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

our plans ought to be formed. I desire therefore, that you would cause in as unsuspected a manner as the case will admit, the above persons to be examined touching the above points, and what number of Troops have lately arrived at New Orleans; and commit the result to Paper. Were they to be examined seperately, advantages might follow by comparing their accounts. I point you to the above as *one* source *only* of information; my desire to obtain a knowledge of these facts, lead me to request with equal earnestness, that you would improve every other to ascertain them with certainty. No reasonable expence should be spared to accomplish objects of such magnitude, in times so critical. [MS.H.S.]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, June 16, 1793.

Dear Sir: I should be glad if you would give the enclosed a perusal, and let me know if you think the reasons there given are sufficient to authorise the additional Loan of 3,000,000 of florins applied for by the Secretary of the Treasury in a letter which you have seen.

The answers contained in the Report, shew the points on which I required information from him. In addition to the motives assigned in the Report for borrowing the additional Sum, there are others (if the act of doing it is warranted by law) very cogent in my mind as inducements to the measure, namely, the uncertain result of the Indian Treaty, the invasion of our Southern frontiers, and the peculiarly delicate situation in which we are placed with respect to some of the European Powers, who in spite of all we can do may involve us in a dispute with one or other of them. In wch. case it might be too late for us to effect a loan.

If the propriety of borrowing on the plan, and for the purposes mentioned in the Report is clear in your mind the Report may be returned by the bearer; If not any time before nine tomorrow may do. Yours always.[73]

*To WILLIAM FRISBIE FITZHUGH[74]

Philadelphia, June 16, 1793.

Dear Sir: The China Bowl with which your good father was so obliging as to present me came safe and I beg you to assure him that I shall esteem it more as a memento of his friendship than for its antiquity or size.

Not before the receipt of your letter dated the 24th. of last month, had I heard of the death of Mrs. Fitzhugh. on this melancholy event I pray you both to accept my sincere condolance. I also sincerely wish that the evening of his life although at prest. clouded [and] deprived of one of its greatest enjoyments, may be perfectly serene and happy: that you will contribute all in your power to make it so I have no doubt.

With great esteem etc.[75]

To MILES MIRWIN

Philadelphia, June 16, 1793.

Sir: Your Letter of the 13. instant came duly to hand. I thank you for making a tender of your services to me to supply the place of Mr. Lear. At present, I have no intention of adding any one to my family for this purpose. am etc.[76]

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[73] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[74] Of Maryland.

[75] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

[76] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

RATIFICATION

Philadelphia, June 17, 1793.

All to whom these presents shall come.

Whereas an Agreement hath been entered into by Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury of the U States, under due authority from me, on behalf of the United States on the one part, and the President, Directors and Company of the Bank of the U. States of the other part, in the words following, to wit:

Articles of Agreement between Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury on behalf of the United States of the one part, and the President, Directors and Company of the Bank of the Ud. States of the other part, made and concluded the 31st day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety three. Whereas by the third section of the Act entitled, an Act making appropriations for the support of Government for the year 1793 the President of the U: States is authorized to borrow on accot. of the said States, any sum or sums, not exceeding in the whole 800,000 Dollars, at a rate of interest not exceeding 5 p Centum pr. annum, and reimbursable at the pleasure of the United States, and it is also thereby declared to be lawful for the Bank of the U. States, to lend the said Sum. And whereas the President of the United States by an Instrument under his hand bearing date the 21st day of March 1793, did empower the Secretary of the Treasury to carry into execution the authority so vested in him.

Now therefore these presents witness, that pursuant to the authority and provisions aforesaid it hath been and hereby is agreed, by and between the said parties of the first and second part as follows, vizt. 1st. The said President, Directors and Company shall lend to the United States the said sum of 800,000 Dollars, to be advanced and paid into the Treasury of the United States in four equal monthly installments; the first, on the first day of June; the second, on the first day of July; the third, on the first day of August; and the fourth, on the first day of September of this present year.

2d. The several sums which shall be from time to time advanced shall respectively bear interest from the time of each advance, at the rate of five p Centum pr annum, and shall each be reimbursed, or repaid within

the term of six months after the advance thereof, reserving nevertheless, to the U States the right at their pleasure to reimburse the whole, or any part of the monies which shall have been so lent and advanced, as much sooner as they shall think fit.

In testimony whereof the said Secretary of the Treasury hath caused the Seal of the Treasury to be affixed to these presents, and hath hereunto subscribed his hand; and the said President, Directors and Company have also caused the Seal of the Bank of the U States to be affixed to the same the day and year aforesaid. Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury (L. S.) witness to the signing by the Secy. of the Treasury Henry Kuhl. Thos. Willing, Prest. (L. S.) signed in the presence of Henry Clymer, Thos. M. Willing. Attest John Kean, Cashr.

Now know ye, that I, having seen and considered the said Agreement, do hereby ratify and confirm the same and every part thereof. In testimony whereof I have caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed to these presents, and signed the same with my hand.[77]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Philadelphia, June 20, 1793.

Sir: I have received and paid attention to your report of the 15th instant. The result is, that the Loan of 2,000,000 of florins ought, in my opinion, to be urged without delay, if it can be obtained within the limitations of the Law. The further proposal of borrowing 3,000,000 of florins in addition, I shall (seeing no inconvenience that will arise from the delay) take a few days longer to consider; as some reasons occur against as well as for the measure, in the *present* unsettled state of credit, and military and other operations in Europe.

In the mean time it would contribute to my understanding of the subject better, if you was to let me know how the whole sum borrowed under the Acts of the 4th and 12. of August 1790,

[77] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

(instead of the sums which have been transferred to the United States) has been applied; and whether the 200,000 dollars, "first instalment to the Bank of the U. States," is a legal charge, under *those* Acts or any other, in the Account A referred to in the report. Also, whether the 284,901 D. and 89 Cents expended in the purchase of the public Debt, does not appear in the report of the Commissioners of the Sinking fund, or some other report made to Congress last Session as appertaining more properly to the surplus revenue.[78]

I ask these questions for information, because if the answer should be in the affirmative, the difference will be very material, and when added to the balance of 565,484 Dolls. and 28 Cents, as pr. your statement A would, with the 2,000,000 of florins negotiating, cover all the ascertained demands upon the U States for the years 1793 and 1794, exclusive of what may be required for the Sinking fund; for which you have made no specific appropriation whereby to form an estimate of the aggregate sum required. I am &c.[79]

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, June 20, 1793.

Sir: I leave it to you and the Heads of the other two Departments to say what or whether any answer should be given to the British Minister's letter of the 19th. It would seem as if neither he, nor the Spanish Commissioners were to be satisfied with any thing this Government can do; but, on the contrary, are resolved to drive matters to extremity.[80] Yours &c.[79]

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[78] Hamilton's answer of June 24 is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[79] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[80] According to the *Journal of the Proceedings of the President* (June 20, 1793), the British Minister required "a more definitive answer than had been given him to the enquiry, whether the privateers would be allowed to return to the ports of the U States, and send their prizes into them."

To THE COMMISSIONERS FOR SETTLING ACCOUNTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND INDIVIDUAL STATES

United States, June 21, 1793.

Gentlemen: Before I can fix upon a time for conferring with you respecting certain points relative to the finishing of your business, I have to request that you will state particularly what those points are, that I may have some little time to consider them. As soon as may be after which, I will inform you when it will be convenient for me to see you, and to give any necessary directions concerning them. I am etc.

PS. I hope the communication requested will be made, at furthest, by nine o'clock tomorrow morning, as I am under the necessity of leaving this City tomorrow evening, or early next morning.[81]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, June 21, 1793.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 17th. came by the Post of yesterday, and as, by the purport of it, there is a probability that this letter may find you either at George town or Mount Vernon, I write it for the purpose of declaring that, your going to the latter place is viewed by me as a very kind and friendly Act. The Acct. given of Mr. Whiting by Doctr. Craik, is a very distressing one; not only as it respects the poor fellow himself, but on acct. of the effect it must have on my business, present and to come; during this year, at least.

Getting an Acct. from him (if his situation will enable him to give it) of the monies received and paid, and such as may be

[81] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

due to and from me, is of importance. A general view given by him of other matters, is more to be wished than expected. I shall bring with me the account he rendered to Mr. Dandridge when I was last at Mount Vernon.

If Mr. Clarke[82] fulfils his engagement (and he says he will, tho' I think it questionable) I shall, if no business more than I am apprized of at present intervenes to prevent it, set out on my journey on Monday; and expect to be at George Town, if not at Mount Vernon, on Thursday evening. This being the case, and as I shall see you at one or the other of those places, or must meet you on the Road, I shall only add that with much truth and friendship I am etc.

PS. Mrs. Lear and Lincoln are perfectly well. [H.L.]

To THE COMMISSIONERS FOR SETTLING ACCOUNTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND INDIVIDUAL STATES

Philadelphia, June 22, 1793.

Gent: Having considered the two questions referred to me in your letters of yesterday, I am of opinion that the Report of your proceedings may be made to the president of the U. States, and that your books and papers will be most properly deposited in the Treasury Department. You will, therefore, be pleased to deliver them to the order of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Should there be anything in this business requiring, in your opinions, my further agency, I shall be ready at any time to give the necessary attention thereto either personally or in writing. I am etc.[83]

---

[82] David Clark, the carriagemaker.
[83] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Philadelphia, June 23, 1793.

Sir: Under cover with this note, you will receive two letters and an enclosure from Govr. Mifflin, wch. are sent to you for your information. Also the Journal of a Mr. Ewing's Voyage down, and his observations respecting the Posts, Settlements &ca. on, the Mississippi. It is my earnest desire that you would prosecute these enquiries with assiduity.

It merits investigation in order to decide whether the call upon Govr. Mifflin to secure the Prize of the Citizen Genet, released by the Marshall of the District of Pennsylvania in conseqe. of the Admiralty Courts refusing to take cognizance [of the affair][84] will require the number of Militia ordered on this Service by him. After having made this enquiry, you will give orders accordingly.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, June 30, 1793.

Dear Sir: You will find by the enclosed letter from the Commissioners that Mr. Hallet reports unfavorably of Doctr. Thornton's Plan "on the great points of practicability, time and expence." And that I am referred "to Mr. Blodget, Hoben and Hallet whose verbal information will be better than any we can give you" on which to form ultimate Instructions.

Mr. Blodget I met at Baltimore[85] in the moment I was about to leave it; consequently I had little conversation with him on the subject referred; but Mr. Hallet is of opinion that the execution

[84] The words in brackets are supplied from the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[85] Washington left Philadelphia for Mount Vernon, June 24, and was in Baltimore, June 26.

of Doctor Thornton's Plan (independent of the cost, which would far exceed our means; and the time allowed for the accomplishment of the buildings) is impracticable; or if practicable, would not in some parts answer the ends proposed. Mr. Hoben seemed to concur in this opinion; and Mr. Blodget, as far as I could come at his sentiments in the short time, I was with him approved the alterations in it which have been proposed by Mr. Hallet.

It is unlucky that this investigation of Doctor Thornton's plan, and estimate of the cost had not preceeded the adoption of it: but knowing the impatience of the Carrollsburg interest and the anxiety of the Public to see both buildings progressing; and supposing the plan to be correct, it was adjudged best to avoid delay. It is better, however, to correct the error, though late, than to proceed in a ruinous measure, in the adoption of which I do not hesitate to confess I was governed by the beauty of the exterior and the distribution of the appartments, declaring then, as I do now, that I had no knowledge in the rules or principles of Architecture, and was equally unable to count the cost. But, if there be such material defects as are represented, and such immense time and cost to complete the buildings, it would be folly in the extreme to proceed on the Plan which has been adopted. It has appeared to me proper, however, that before it is laid aside, Justice, and respect to Doctor Thornton, requires, that the objections should be made known to him and an opportunity afforded to explain and obviate them, if he can.

For this reason, and because Mr. Blodget is in Philadelphia and it might not be convenient for Doctr. Thornton to leave it; I have requested Mr. Hallet and Mr. Hoben to repair without delay to Philadelphia, with all the plans and documents which are necessary to elucidate this subject, and do pray you to get all the parties herein named together, and after hearing the

objections and explanations report your opinion on the case and the plan which ought to be executed. Nothing can be done to the foundation until a final decision is had, and this decision ought not to be delayed one moment that can be avoided; because time is wasting fast; because the public expectation is alive, and because the dæman Jealousy may be at work in the lower Town when one building is seen to progress rapidly, and a plan for the other not yet decided on. Whether it be practicable (even at an expence) to call in the aid of any other scientific Character in Philadelphia to assist in deciding this point; or whether there be any thence, is more than I can tell. Your own knowledge of this, and judgment, will decide. The case is important. a Plan must be adopted; and good, or bad, it must be entered upon. I am etc.[86]

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, June 30, 1793.

Dear sir: The enclosed Letter from the Governor of New York, covering a communication to him from the Consul of the French Republic at that place, respecting the continuance of a British letter of Marque in the Harbour of New York, reached my hands by the post of last evening; and I now transmit it to you, that it may be taken into consideration by yourself and the other heads of the Departmts. as soon as may be after this letter gets to your hands. If you should be unanimous in your opinions, as to the measures which ought to be pursued by the Government, in the case now communicated, you, or the Secretary at War (to whose Department it belongs) will transmit in my name the result of your deliberations on the subject to the Govr. of New York for his information; and to be communicated by him to the French Consul at that place.

[86] In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

But, in case there should be a difference of sentiment among the Gentlemen on the matter, I must request that the several opinions may be sent to me for my consideration, and the Governor of Nw. York informed, that a decision will be had in the case as soon as I return to the Seat of Government; which I expect will be about the 10th of next month, notwithstanding the death of my manager[87] and the consequent derangement of my concerns would make my presence here for a longer time, at this important season, almost indispensable. but I know the urgency and delicacy of our public affairs at present will not permit me to be longer absent; I must therefore submit with the best grace I can to the loss and inconvenience, which my private affairs will sustain from the want of my personal attention, or that of a confidential character, the obtaining of whom I have no prospect at present. I am &c.[88]

[87] Anthony Whiting.
[88] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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